DUE DATE

Bihar District Gazetteers

DARBHANGA

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By

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PREFACE

The last District Gazetteer of Darbhanga by L. S. S. O' Malley, I. C. S., was published in 1907. This book ran to 166 pages. The book is absolutely scarce now and with difficulty a copy with crumbling pages was available for the Editor.

O'Malley's book is the first Gazetteer of Darbhanga district. When the Statistical Account of Bengal by Sir W. W. Hunter was published, the district of Darbhanga had only recently been constituted and it was treated as a part of the old district of Tirhut in which it was comprised until 1875.

The State Government in the Revenue Department have undertaken the work of rewriting and publishing the entire series of Bihar District Gazetteers. Although replete with facts and brilliantly written the old District Gazetteers cannot serve much purpose now. They were written with a particular slant and were more of an administrator's handbook. In the last 55 years there have been very many basic changes in the district and in the country. Even the face of the district has been materially changed by the ravages of floods, spread of communications and industries, etc. The Indigo Industry which was discussed in a chapter in the last Gazetteer has completely disappeared.

The Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, New Delhi, have taken up the work of co-ordinating the new District Gazetteers in the States and publishing four volumes of Central Gazetteers for India. In consultation with the State Editors, the Ministry has drawn up a general plan to be followed as far as possible by the States for their District Gazetteers. This plan is somewhat different from what O'Malley had followed. The State Government of Bihar have agreed to work in collaboration with the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

The rewritten District Gazetteer of Darbhanga is my eleventh publication in the new series. The rewritten District Gazetteers for Hazaribagh, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Singhbhum, Saran, Champaran, Monghyr, Palamau, Purnea and Bhagalpur have already been published. The last five District Gazetteers are according to India's pattern.

The work of rewriting the District Gazetteer of Darbhanga has its own problems Since 1904 there have been no Survey and Settlement Operations in the district No comprehensive socio-economic survey of the district appears to have been undertaken. The march of events since 1947 has been extremely rapid. Officers in key position have their own problems and even if interested in this type of work have very little leisure to give any active collaboration.

I desire to acknowledge the great assistance I have derived from institutions like National Archives, New Delhi, National Library, Calcutta, Asiatic Society of Bengal, Calcutta and Raj Darbhanga Library, Darbhanga. The Deputy Director General of Observatories (Climatology and Geophysics), Poona, has supplied the climatological data. It was extremely unfortunate that Mr. C. M. Inglis, an old planter who was an authority on Ornithology of this district passed away just after I had entered into correspondence with him. I have, however, derived much help from his published books. For the later events, I have consulted published literature, census reports, blue books and other data collected from collaborators and investigators. My official contact with Darbhanga district since 1944 was also a help.

My thanks are particularly due to Prof. R. K. Chaudhury, Head of the Department of History, G. D. College, Begusarai, Pandit Girindramohan Mishra, General Manager, Raj Darbhanga, Prof. Ramanath Jha of C. M. College, Darbhanga, Prof. A. B. Chakravarty of P. K. Roy Memorial College, Dhanbad and the Central Gazetteers Unit for their collaboration.

Shri S. J. Mazumdar, I.C.S., Chief Secretary, Shri Mahesh Prasad Sinha, Revenue Minister, and Pandit Binodanand Jha, Chief Minister, have taken keen interest in the work and have given me guidance from time to time. Their confidence in me has been an inspiration.

I have enjoyed working on this project and I shall be happy if the book proves useful to the wide range of readers for whom it is meant.

PATNA : P. C. ROY CHOUDHURY.

The 5th December, 1962.

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CHAPTER I

GENERAL

General Description

The district of Darbhanga, which forms the north-eastern portion of the Muzaffarpur Division, lies between 25°28′ and 26°40′ north latitude and between 85°31′ and 86°44′ east longitude.* It contains a total area of 3,510 square miles and has a population of 4,413,027 souls according to 1961 census. Its shape is that of a fairly well-defined parallelogram, its mean length being greater than its mean breadth; its greatest length from north-east to south-west is 96 miles. The principal civil station, which is also the most populous town in the district, is Darbhanga, situated in 26°10′ N. and 85°54′ E.

Boundaries

The district is bounded on the north by Nepal, on the east by the districts of Saharsa, on the west by Muzaffarpur, on the south-east by the district of Monghyr, and on the south-west by the Ganga, which divides it from the Patna district.

Origin of Name

It takes its name from its chief town; and local patriotism insists that Darbhanga is derived from *Duara Banga* or *Dar-i-Bangal*, meaning the door of Bengal. This derivation appears, however, to be philologically impossible and also historically incorrect, as the division between Bengal and Bihar has always been much further to the east. It seems more probable that the name arrived from that of the traditional founder of the town, one Darbhangi Khan of whom little or nothing is known. The district formerly constituted part of Tirhut, a huge unwieldy district extending over 6,343 square miles; but this vast extent of territory being beyond the administrative capacity of a single Collector, it was divided into two in 1875, the western portion being constituted the district of Muzaffarpur, and the eastern and larger portion being formed into a separate district, called Darbhanga after the name of its headquarters. The name Tirhut is still, however, used as a convenient appellation for the country included in these two districts. There was some re-adjustment of territory during the period 1881—90; and since then the district boundaries have remained unchanged.

*There is a slight variation in the area of the district. The area has also been mentioned in 1961 census papers as 3,345 square miles while in 1951 census papers the area is shown as 3,510 square miles. The variation may be ignored.

General Configuration

Darbhanga is a great alluvial plain with a general slope from north to south varied by a depression in the centre, corresponding roughly with the Warisnagar thana. The country lies on a low level, in many places-indented with chains of shallow marshes marking the lines of drainage by which the local rainfall and the overflow of the hill streams which intersect the district find their way southwards into the Ganga. The rivers flow on raised beds, which they have gradually constructed for themselves out of the silt brought down from the mountains in Nepal. The alluvial plain, diversified only by these river ridges, is rich in all sorts of crops. In some tracts nothing but an enormous stretch of rice fields meets the eye, but in others the level plain is dotted with numerous clusters of bamboos and groves of mango and *sisu* trees.

Natural Divisions

Darbhanga is divided by its interior river system into three well defined physical divisions. The first of these, starting from the south, is the tract in the extreme south-west of the district, comprising thanas of Dalsingsarai, Mohiuddinagar and Samastipur* which are separated from the rest of the district by the Little or Burhi Gandak river. This area consists of a large block of upland with a few *chaurs* or marshes here and there and is the richest and most fertile portion of the district. The second main physical division corresponds roughly with Warisnagar thana, and consists of a marshy *doab* between Bagmati and Burhi Gandak rivers. The tract is the lowest part of the district and is liable to inundation from the former river. The rest of the district comprising the headquarters and Madhubani subdivision consists of a vast lowlying plain intersected by numerous streams and marshes, but traversed also in parts by upland ridges. The south-eastern portion corresponding roughly Biroul, Singia and parts of Bahera and Rusera is in the rainy season mainly a vast chain of temporary lakes, joined together by the numerous beds of the hill streams which pass through the Madhubani subdivision on their way from Nepal to the Ganga. Large tracts in this area do not dry up till well in the cold weather and in some places communications are open only for three or four months of the year. In the Madhubani subdivision the land is generally higher, specially in thanas of Benipatti, Madhubani, Jayanagar, Ladania, Laukaha and in the south of Phulparas, which contain stretches of highland.

River System

The district contains four main river systems : the Ganga, the Little Gandak, the Kamla, Tiljuga group of rivers and the Kosi

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*Samastipur is also spelt as Samastipore. Muzaffarpur is also spelt as Muzaffarpore.

rivers. The Ganga forms part of the southern boundary of Darbhanga and further north the Little Gandak separates the greater portion of the Samastipur subdivision from the rest of the district and this subdivision contains no other river of importance but to the north there is a net-work of rivers and streams most of which cover the extreme south-east corner of the district. In the Madhubani and headquarters subdivisions practically all rivers are liable to overflow their banks during heavy floods but they rapidly drain off into the lowlying country in the south-east of the district and ultimately into Kosi river, on which all the lines of drainage north of the Little Gandak converge. Their most marked characteristic in this portion of their course is that they flow on ridges elevated above the surrounding country and each pair of rivers thus encloses a shallow depression, consisting of a series of *chaurs* or lowland leading into one another forming the drainage channels of the country.

The Ganga

The Ganga stretches in the district on the south for 20 miles but there are no large places of trade on its bank in this portion of its course. It is no where fordable at any time of the year and is about a mile wide in dry season, when clear of sand banks. In rains, the width is much greater, all sand banks being covered with water. The sand banks are constantly changing, forming and reforming in the most capricious way. Generally speaking, the banks of Darbhanga side are sloping and ill-defined and the lowlying lands are annually flooded. By constructing a long high embankment from Shahporepatory to Sherpur in Monghyr district via Nandini, Bazidpore, the flood has been restricted to the south of this embankment. The land on the south is of course inundated by flood of the Ganga and gets rich alluvial soil every year and produces good *Rabi* crops.

The Baya River

The only stream of any importance which joins the Ganga direct and not by way of other river systems is the Baya. The river is an overflow of the Great Gandak, which forms the boundary between Muzaffarpur and Saran. After flowing through the south of Muzaffarpur, it runs through part of Mohiuddinagar thana in this district and finally joins the Ganga just below Dhauspur at the extreme south-east corner of the Samastipur subdivision. In Darbhanga district, the entire length of the Baya river is on the south of the Ganga embankment and so no lands on the north of the embankment are affected by flood of this river.

The Little or the Burhi Gandak

The Little or the Burhi Gandak, as it is also called, is an important river throughout its course in Champaran, Muzaffarpur,

Darbhanga and North Monghyr. It enters the Darbhanga district near Pusa and after flowing past Samastipur leaves it just below Rusera. Though its importance has diminished by the Railway, it is still a valuable trade-highway and there are many large *bazārs* and markets on its banks. It is navigable all the year round, for country boats of fair size. Its offshoots flowing through the south-west of the Samastipur subdivision, rejoin the parent stream in Monghyr before it flows into the Ganga at Khagaria and these offshoots get dried up except in rains. The river Burhi Gandak and its offshoots spill the banks during flood inundating the areas in Tajpur and Warisnagar thanas causing damage to crops and communications. Above Shivai-singhpore the left bank spill combines with the spill of Shanti causing inundation and the right bank spill also extends to Dakahabaha Bundh, causing damages to crops and communications.

The Baghmati, Karai, Shanti Rivers

The Baghmati, or better known as Muzaffar Baghmati, rises in Nepal and after traversing through Muzaffarpur district enters Darbhanga district near Kalanjar Ghat, pursues an easterly direction parallel to Burhi Gandak. It formerly joined this river near Rusera, but within the last 70 years, it has cut a new bed for itself and now flows into Karai.

The Shanti river enters Darbhanga, a little south of Baghmati and runs parallel to it and traversing through Warisnagar thana, joins the old course of Baghmati and flows into Burhi Gandak near Rusera.

The Little Baghmati or Darbhanga Baghmati on which the town of Darbhanga stands also finds its way into Karai near Hayaghat. Its chief tributary is the Dhans, which runs through north-west of Benipatti thana. Another tributary of importance is the Mohini river which flows through and inundates in rains the Jale thana. The Little Baghmati was formerly joined near Kamtaul by the Kamla, which is no longer a living channel.

Karai prior to its junction with Baghmati, is an unimportant stream and after joining with Baghmati flows south-easterly to Tilkeshwar and ultimately falls into Kosi. In flood season, the spill water of the river overfloods large areas.

Kamla, Jiwachh, Balan Rivers

The river Kamla rises in Nepal, enters Darbhanga district just east of Jaynagar town in the north and flowing southwards and then in a south-easterly direction to Tilkeshwar falls into Tiljuga and ultimately into Kosi by various tortuous routes. This river changes its course from year to year and its old beds

are found all over the north of Madhubani subdivision. The main channel used to flow ten miles east of Madhubani, then ten miles west and now it flows 2 miles east of Madhubani town and reaching Ryam encircling it by various channels takes ultimately the bed of Gause river and then goes south eastward to Tilkeshwar. It is a large river in the rains and is liable to heavy floods.

In flood season Madhubani and Jaynagar towns are threatened every year and the Ryam area becomes a vast sheet of water. A few years before, Kamla used to flow into the bed of Jiwachh, which it has abandoned now and has taken up the present course as stated above. The bed of Jiwachh has thus silted up.

In Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur, Kamla is worshipped as the younger sister of the Ganga and receives similar offerings of goats. Still further east of Kamla is the Little Balan, a deep narrow river with well defined beds, which runs south through the eastern part of Khajauli and Madhubani thanas and joins Tiljuga near Rusera. The Balan proper known as Bhali Balan is a river with wide shifting of sandy beds, also liable to heavy floods, but practically dry during a great part of the year. Its old beds are found all over the north of Phulparas thana.

Tiljuga and Kosi Rivers

Last comes Tiljuga and Kosi. Tiljuga rises in Nepal and skirts the entire eastern part of the district, though parts of it lie in Saharsa and Monghyr districts. Since Kosi has now approached the eastern boundary of the district, it has practically flowed into the bed of Tiljuga river and causes heavy floods in the whole of the eastern boundary area of the district. Kosi is a major river. It rises in Nepal and flows through Saharsa, Darbhanga, North Monghyr, Purnea districts and meets the Ganga. The tendency of Kosi is to shift more westwards and so nearly every year a number of villages in Darbhanga district are affected by floods in Kosi. In the rainy season this river creates havoc in Saharsa and in the eastern part of this district in Phulparas, Madhepur, Biraul and Singia thanas. Kosi changes its course and travels 50 or 60 miles in about 50 years. As it moves, it leaves many channels behind and large tracts are made not only unfit for cultivation but also make them highly malarious. The harnessing of Kosi has been taken up at its upper course and the multi-purpose Kosi Project will be of immense benefit to the district. This aspect has been covered elsewhere.

GEOLOGY

Darbhanga is a level plain rising very gradually towards the foot of the Himalayas, and with a belt of fairly high and along

the bank of the Ganga. Between these two extremes the general elevation is lower, and considerable areas are liable to inundation. The soil consists mainly of the older alluvium or *bangar*, a yellowish clay with frequent deposits of *kankar*, but in parts this has been cut away by the river rushing down from the Himalayas, and the low land, through which the latter find an exit to the Ganga, is composed of more recent deposits of sand and silt brought down by them when in flood. The soil of the district is thus entirely alluvial. It is impregnated in parts with saltpetre and other salts, and occasionally beds of *kankar*, or nodular limestone of an inferior quality, are met with.

The district suffered very badly in 1934 from earthquake.

Botany

"The essential features", writes Major D. Prain, I.M.S., in *Bengal Plants*, "of the vegetation in the area to the north of the Ganges, from the Gandak on the west to the Brahmaputra on the east, as we pass from north to south, are as follows. First, a narrow, more or less sloping, gravelly submontane tract along the base of the Himalaya, covered, except along river-beds, with a dense forest, the constituent species of which are those that occur on the lower slopes of the mountains themselves. In existing river beds only a few tough flexible bushes occur; along abandoned shingly river courses the jungle is open and park-like, and the species are those characteristic of a drier climate than obtains in the forest alongside. This submontane forest is normally succeeded by a belt of swampy land of varying width, covered with long reedy grasses. Further out into the plain the ground as a rule rises somewhat, and if so high as to be free from inundations, is in waste tracts usually covered with open jungle of a bushy character in the western parts, taller and more park-like in the central districts, and mixed with reedy grass or sometimes consisting only of tall grass as we pass to the east. Much of this tract, however, especially in the west, is under cultivation, and is then bare or diversified with bamboos, palms, and orchards of mangoes, or less often, groves of other trees; in and about the villages themselves the mangoes are often accompanied by a number of tree-weeds and semi-spontaneous, more or less useful, bushes and trees."

For botanical purposes Darbhanga forms part of Tirhut, i.e., the region lying from west to east between the Gandak and Kosi, and from north to south between the sub-Himalayan forest and the Ganga. The botanical features of this tract are in many ways different from those of Bihar, i.e., the tract extending from the Sone on the west to the old bed of the Bhagirathi on the east and lying from north to south between the Ganges and the *ghats* of Chota Nagpur. Together they form an integral portion of the Upper Gangetic plain, but, as Major Prain points out, "Tirhut is

wholly flat, whereas Bihar is much diversified by hills. Bihar, too, is appreciably drier than Tirhut, and these two circumstances, greater diversity of surface and less humidity, account for the presence in Bihar of many species that are absent from Tirhut. Another and, though an accidental, not less important factor in influencing the vegetation of Tirhut is the density of the population. So close, in consequence, is the tilth, that throughout the whole district field is conterminous with field, and the cultivated land abuts so cosely on wayside and water course as to leave no foothold for those species that form the roadside hedges and fill the weedy waste places so characteristic of lower Bengal. Even the village shrubberies that constitute so marked a feature of much of our area, are in Tirhut conspicuous by their absence. The result is that, except for the water-plants in the smaller streams and sluggish rivers, the vegetation of Tirhut is chiefly limited to the crops with their concomitant field-weeds; even the latter are often conspicuous by their paucity.*

The following is an account of the different botanical species found now in Darbhanga :—

> The ground is under close cultivation, and besides the crops carries only a few field-weeds, except for a few very small patches of jungle, whereof the chief constituents are the red cotton tree (*Bombax malabaricum*), *khair* (*Acacia catechu*) and *sisu* (*Dalbergia sissoo*); in these parts there is an under-growth of euphorbiaceous and urticaceous shrubs and tree-weeds, like *Breynia*, *Trema*, *Flueggia*, *Phyllanthus* and *Glochidion*. Occasionally also large stretches of grass land are found, of which the chief species are *Eragrostis cynosuroides*, *Andropogon intermedium*, *Imperata arundinacea*, *Saccharum spontaeum*. These are interspersed with smaller spots of *usar* land sparingly beset with *Andropogon aciculatus*, *Diplachne*, *Sporobolus* and similar grasses. Near villages small shrubberies may be found containing mango, *sisu*, *Eugenia jambolana*, various species of *Ficus*, an occasional tamarind and few other semi-spontaneous and more or less useful species. Both the palmyra (*Borassus flabellifer* and the *khajur* (*Phoenix sylvestries*) occur planted and at times self-sown, but neither in great abundance. By the roadsides or round village enclosures, hedges of *Jatropha curcas*, *Caesalpinia sepiaria*, *Grewia* and similar shrubs are often covered with climbing species of *Convolvulaceoe*, *Trajia involucrata* and various species of vities. Hedge-row weeds are represented by *Jatropha gossypifolia* *Martynia diandra* and similar plants. The field and roadside weeds include various grasses and sedges, chiefly species of *Panicum* and *Cyperus*; prostrate

*District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907), pages 5-6.

species of *Evolvulus*, *Indigofera*, *Ionidium*, *Desmodium*; and hervaceous species of *Phyllanthus*, *Euphorbia*, *Heliotropium*, and the like. In waste corners and on railway embankments thickets of *sisu*, dervied both from seeds and root-sukers, very readily appear. The sluggish streams and ponds are filled with water weeds, submerged *Ceratophyllum*, *Hydrilla*, *Vallisneria*, *Ottelia* and floating *Potamogeton*, *Nelumbium*, *Nymphoea*, *Trapa*, *Jussioea*, *Ipomoea*, the sides being often fringed by reedy grasses and bulrushes occasionally intermixed with tamarisk bushes.*

FAUNA

Tirhut a part of which is Darbhanga district was formerly famous for the variety of its fauna in the days when forests covered large stretches of land which are now under the plough. The *Ain-i-Akbari* mentions about the savage buffaloes of this area that would attack tigers. It also mentions that deer and tigers frequented the cultivated spots and were hunted. Even towards the close of the 18th century wild animals were still very plentiful. A few years before the Permanent Settlement rewards were paid for the slaughter of 51 tigers in a single year. Beasts of prey and depredations by herds of wild elephants were a serious danger to cultivation.

Even in the last District Gazetteer published in 1907 mention has been made that leopards were occasionally found in patches of jungle towards the north and that hyaenas were met with but rarely.

The advance of cultivation, the growth of the population and the extension of means of communications have practically denuded the district of forests and from wild buffaloes, tigers, elephants and leopards. Tiger and *nilgai* are very rarely met with. Wild pigs the sticking of which was a great sport of the Europeans of the district are no longer found in herds. Jackals, fox, wild cat, and other small predatory animals are now the only remnants. Darbhanga and particularly the areas of bordering Nepal used to be an excellent *shikar* land which has now become a dream. The present generation has not heard of a wild elephant in Darbhanga district.

In the last District Gazetteer it was mentioned that the game birds of the district were not numerous. They have still become smaller in number. O'Malley had mentioned—

"The following kinds of duck and teal are known—The red-headed, white-eyed and crested pochard, pin-tail and shoveller duck, widgeon. ruddy sheldrake, blue-winged, whistling and cotton teal. The spotted bill duck, whistler and cotton teal breed here. Snipe, plover, cranes,

*This portion as well as some other portions have been taken from O'Malley's District Gazetteer of Darbhanga as there have been no major changes (PCRC).

storks, curlew and numerous sorts of waders are regular visitors."* Most of those varieties have ceased coming to the district now.

Winter does not attract most of these visitors now. The game birds now consist of a few indigenous types of snipes, partridges and ordinary ducks.

Birds

Mr. C. M. Inglis, an European planter who had lived in Darbhanga district for about forty years had made a study of the birds of Darbhanga district. He had been contacted in his retirement at Bangalore and had promised collaboration but unfortunately before the write-up came death snatched him away. He is one of the collaborators of the book on Birds of an Indian Garden (Thacker Spink and Co., Ltd. Calcutta), 1936. His article on Birds of the Madhubani subdivision of the Darbhanga district in the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society, Vols. XV and XVI, 1901 is authoritative.

A large number of birds has been recorded by Mr. C. M. Inglis from 1897 to 1948. It is possible that due to the cultivation of the *chaurs* (water-logged areas), indiscriminate shooting in the past and other reasons, some of the birds have ceased coming to Darbhanga. It is true that Darbhanga is no longer the great *shikar* area for birds.

The list of birds recorded by Mr. Inglis in the district of Darbhanga is as follows :—

Jungle Crow, House Crow, Treeple, Grey Tit, Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, Jungle Babbler, Striated Babbler, Common Babbler, Common Lora, Red-vented Bulbul, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Stonechat, Bushchat, White-tailed Bushchat, Hodgson's Bushchat, Redstart, Red-spotted Bluethroat, Rubythroat, Dhayal, Shama, Black throated Thrush, Orange headed Ground Thrush, Small-billed Mountain Thrush, Blue-headed Rock Thrush, Red-breasted Flycatchers, Slaty-blue Flycatcher. White-browed Blue Flycatcher, Blue-throated Flycatcher, Verditer Flycatcher, Grey-headed Flycatcher, Paradise Flycatcher, Black-naped Flycatcher, White-browed Fantail Flycatcher. Bay-backed-Shrike, Black-headed Shrike, Rufous-backed Shrike, Grey-backed Shrike, Brown Shrike, Wood Shrike, Scarlet Minivet, Small Minivet, Burmese Small Minivet, Dark Grey Cuckoo-Shrike, Large Himalyan Cuckoo-Shrike, Black Drongo, White-bellied Drongo, Hair-crested Drongo, Large Racket-tailed Drongo, Great Reed

*District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907), pp. 7-8

Warbler, Blyth's Reed Warbler, Tailor Bird, Streaked Fan tail Warbler, Striated Marsh Warbler, Bristled Grass Warbler, Thick-billed Warbler, Orphean Warbler, Tickell's Willow Warbler, Brown Willow Warbler, Smoky Willow Warbler, Hume's Willow Warbler, Greenish Willow Warbler, Large Crowned Willow Warbler, Blyth's Crowned Billow Warbler, Allied Flycatcher-Warbler, Indian Wren-Warbler, Indian Oriole, Black-headed Oriole, Southern Grackle, Indian Grackle, Rosy Pastor Finsch's Starling, Grey-headed Myna, Black-headed Myna, Common Myna, Bank Myna, Jungle Myna, Pied Myna, Baya, Black-throated Baya, Chestnut-bellied Munia, White-throated Munia, Spotted Munia, Red Munia, Caucausian Rose Finch, Common Rose Finch, Yellow-throated Sparrow, House Sparrow, Grey-headed Bunting, Little Bunting, Crested Bunting, Siberian Sand Martin, Indian Sand Martin, Common Swallow, Eastern Swallow, Hodgson's Striated Swallow, White Wagtail, Masked Wagtail, Hodgson's Pied Wagtail, White-faced Wagtail, Large Pied Wagtail, Blue-headed Wagtail, Grey-headed Wagtail, Yellow-headed Wagtail, Hodgson's Yellow-headed Wagtail, Forest Wagtail, Tree Pipit, Indian Tree Pipit, Brown Rock Pipit, Blyth's Pipit, Indian Pipit, Hodgson's Pipit, Skylark, Rufous Short-toed Lark, Brooks's Short-toed Lark, Ganges Sandlark, Bushlark, Franklin's Crested Lark, Ashy-crowned Finch-Lark, White-eye, Purple Sunbird, Tickell's Flower-pecker, Thick billed Flower-pecker, Pitta, Mahratta Woodpecker, Pygmy Wood pecker, Rufoua Woodpecker, Golden-backed Woodpecker, Japanese Wryneck, Green Barbet, Crimson-breasted Barbet, Asiatic Cuckoo, Indian Cuckoo, Papiha, Plaintive Cuckoo, Burmese Plaintive Cuckoo, Pied Crested Cuckoo, Red-winged Crested Cuckoo, Koel, Sirkeer Cuckoo, Crow-Pheasant, Lesser Coucal, Large Parakeet, Roseringed Parakeet, Blossom-headed Parakeet, Roller, Bee-eater, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Pied Kingfisher, Common Kingfisher, Stork-billed Kingfisher, White-breasted Kingfisher, Black-capped Kingfisher, Grey Hornbill, Hoopoes, Nepal House Swift, Bengal Palm Swift, Horsfield's Nightjar, Jungle Nightjar, Common Nightjar, Barn Owl, Grass Owl, Short-eared Owl, Mottled Wood Owl, Bengal Fishing Owl, Great Horned Owl, Collared Scops Owl, Northern Scops Owl, Spotted Owlet, Brown Hawk Owl, Osprey, Pondicherry Vulture, Griffon Vulture, Long-billed Vulture, White-backed Vulture, Scavenger Vulture, Peregrine Falcon, Shahin Falcon, Laggar Falcon, Hobby, Red-headed Merlink, Kestrel, Imperial Eagle, Tawny Eagle, Great Spotted Eagle, Small Spotted Eagle, Booted Eagle, Changeable Hawk-Eagle, Hodgson's Hawk-Eagle, Short-toed

Eagle, Crested Serpant Eagle, White-eyed Buzzard, Pallas's Fishing Eagle, Grey-billed Fishing Eagle, Brahminy Kite, Pariah Kite, Black-winged Kite, Pale Harrier, Monitagu's Harrier, Pied Harrier, Long-legged Buzzard, Shikra, Sparrow-Hawk, Besia Sparrow-Hawk, Crested Honey Buzzard, Green Pigeon, Southern Green Pigeon, Ashy-headed Green Pigeon, Orange-breasted Green Pigeon, Emerald Dove, Blue Rock Pigeon, Stock Pigeon, Rufous Turtle Dove, Spotted Dove, Ring Dove, Red Turtle Dove, Blue-breasted Quail, Grey Quail, Black-breasted Quail, Black Partridge, Kyah, Grey Partridge, Little Button Quail, Button Quail, Water, Rail, Spotted Crake, Baillon's Crake, Ruddy Crake, White-breasted Waterhen, Moorhen, Kora, Purple Moorhen, Coot, Bronze-winged Jacana, Pheasant-tailed Jacana. Painted Snipe, Common Crane, Siberian Crane, Sarus Crane, Demoiselle Crane, Lesser Florican, Bengal Florican, Stone Plover, Great Stone Plover, Indian Courser, Large Pratincole, Small Pratincole, Great Black-headed Gull, Black-headed Gull, Brown-headed Gull, Yellow-legged Herring-Gull, Whiskered Tern, Caspian Tern, Gull-billed Tern, River Tern, Black-bellied Tern, Sooty Tern, Skimmer, Grey Plover, Kentish Plover, Little Ringed Plover, Golden Plover, Peewil, Sociable Lapwing, White-tailed Lapwing, Spur-winged Plover, Redwattled Lapwing, Yellow-wattled Lapwing, Grey-headed Lapwing, Black-winged Stilt, Avocet, Eastern Curlew, Whimbrel, Black-tailed Godwit, Green Sandpiper, Marsh Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, Redshank, Spotted Redshank, Greenshank. Common Sandpiper, Ruff and Reeve, Little Stint, Temminck's Stint, Curlew-Stint, Dunlin, Wood cock, Fantail Snipe, Pin-tailed Snipe, Jack Snipe, Rosy Pelican, Spotted-billed Pelican, Large Cormorant, Shag, Little Cormorant, Darter, Spoonbil, White Ibis, Black Ibis, Glossy Ibis, White Stork, Black Stork, White-necked Stork, Black-necked Stork, Adjutant, Smaller Adjutant, Painted Stork, Openbill, Purple Heron, Grey Heron, Large Egret, Smaller Egret, Little Egret, Cattle Egret, Reef Heron, Pond Heron, Little Green Heron, Night Heron, Yellow Bittern, Chestnut Bittern, Black Bittern, Bittern, Flamingo, Nukta, Pink-headed Duck, Cotton Teal, Grey Lag Goose, White-fronted Goose, Suskhin's Goose, Bar-headed Goose, Lesser Whistling Teal, Large Whistling Teal, Sheldrake, Brahminy Duck, Mallard, Spotbill, Falcated Teal, Gadwall, Widgeon, Common Teal, Baikal Teal, Pintail, Garganey, Shoveller, Marbled Teal, Red-crested Pochard, Pochard or Dunbird, White-eyed Pochard, Baer's White-eye Tufted Pochard, Eastern Goosander, Great Crested Grebe, and Little Grebe.

The late Mr. Charles M. Ingles just before his death had written to the Editor:—

"My observations reveal that 41 birds have been recorded by me from the district of Darbhanga which had not been recorded any where in the State of Bihar previously. These birds have neither been recorded subsequently from the State, and constitute the rarer birds of Darbhanga. The following are the birds that have been recorded from Darbhanga but from nowhere else in Bihar:—

Slaty Blue Flycatcher (*Muscicapa tricolor*), Striated Marsh Warbler (Megalurus palustris), Smoky Willow Warbler (Phylloscopus fuliginiventer), Allied Flycatcher Warbler (*Seicercus affinis*), Indian Grackle (*Gracula religosa intermedia*), Chestnut-bellied Munia (*Lonchura ferrinosa atricapilla*), Grey-headed Bunting (*Emberiza fucata*), Hodgson's Pipit (*Anthus roscatus*), Shorteared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), Imperial Eagle (*Acuila heliaca*), Booted Eagle (*Hiraetus pennatus*), Hodgson's Hawk Eagle (*Spizaetus nipulensis*), Eastern Stock Pigeon (*Columba evcrsmanni*), Swamp Partridge (*Francolinus gularis*), Indian Water-Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*), Spotted Crake (*Porzana porzana*), Baillon's Crake (*Porzana pusilla*), Northern Ruddy Crake (*Amaurernis fuscus*), Great White Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*), Great Stone Plover (*Esacus recurvirostris*). Large Indian Swallow Plover (Glareola maldivarum), Great Black-headed Gull (*Larus ichthyaetus*), Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*), Yellow-legged Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*), Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*), Grey Plover (*Souatarola squatarola*). Sociable Lapwing (*Chettusia gregaria*), White-tailed Lapwing (*Chettusia leucura*), Black-winged stilt (*Himantovs himantopus*), Eastern Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Whimbrel (*Numenius phocopus*), Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*), Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*), Jack snipe (*Lymnocryptes minima*), Rosy Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*), Yellow Bittern (*Ixobrychus sinensis*), Black Bittern (*Dupeper flavicollis*), White Fronted Goose (*Anser albifrens*), Large Whistling Teal (*Dendrocyna Fulva*), and Crested Grebe (*Bodicaps cristatus*).

Three hundred and fifty-eight species of birds, resident and migratory, occur in this district and neighbourhood. The common birds of Darbhanga are listed, and illustrated, in *Birds of an Indian Garden*, which is an easy book for beginning bird identification."

Fish

Most of the rivers and lakes, and many of the tanks abound in small fish, such as *rahu, nuni, jasir, bachua, tengra, singhi, katla,* mullet, a great variety of the smaller carp, poach and dace-like fish, predatory fish known as *boari*, and a flatsided fish called *buna*, some of which grow to a large size. The *hilsa* has sometimes been found in the Little Gandak. In the latter river and in the Baghmati and other larger rivers, the Gangetic porpoise is fairly common. The common turtle is also found in the larger rivers and lakes. The *gharial* or fish-eating crocodile and the *mugger* or snub-nosed variety, locally called *boch*, are still found in most of the rivers. The former are occasionally of great size, *gharials* 20 feet and more in length having been shot. The fisheries have been dealt with in the text on Agriculture and Irrigation. It is a pity that in spite of a large quantity of fish being available in this district there is no arrangement for transport of fish in refrigerated wagons. Darbhanga is now within 7 or 8 hours run from Patna and it will not be difficult to transport Darbhanga fish to Patna markets. Now most of the fish go to Bhagalpur and Katihar.

Snakes

Several kinds of dangerous snakes abound in this district like the Karait and the Cobra. There are also particular water snakes commonly called *Donhra*.

CLIMATE

The climate of this district is characterised by a pleasant cold season a hot, dry summer and the monsoon season with its moist heat and oppressive nights. The cold season is from about the middle of November to the end of February. The summer season from March to May is followed by the south-west monsoon season from June to September. October and the first half of November constitutes the post monsoon season.

Rainfall

Records of rainfall in the district are available for a good network of 21 stations for periods ranging from 22 to 90 years The statement of the rainfall at these stations and for the district as a whole is given in tables I and 2. The average annual rainfall in the district is 1254.3 mm (49.38"). The rainfall generally increases from the south-west towards the north-east. But in the area around Samastipur the rainfall is higher than in the rest of the district. The rainfall in the south-west monsoon season from June to September constitutes about 84 per cent of the annual rainfall. In general, the rainiest month in the north-eastern half

of the district is July while in the south-western half is August The variation in the annual rainfall from year to year is not large. During the fifty years 1901 to 1950, the highest annual rainfall amounting to 139 per cent of the normal occurred in 1905 while the lowest annual rainfall which was 50 per cent of the normal occurred in 1908. No two consecutive years had rainfall less than 80 per cent of the normal, considering the district as a whole. However, at a few of the stations rainfall less than 80 per cent of the normal in two or three consecutive years has occurred once during this fifty year period. At Rusera even four consecutive years of such low rainfall has occurred during 1940 to 1943. It will be seen from table 2 that the annual rainfall was between 1,000 and 1,500 mm (39.37" and 59.05") in 35 years out of 50.

On an average there are 51 rainy days (i.e., days with rainfall of 2.5 mm—10 cents or more) in a year in the district. This number varies from 44 at Laukaha and Dalsingsarai to 60 at Samastipur.

The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at any station in the district was 441.5mm (17.38") at Umgaon in 1942 September 30.

Temperature

The only meteorological observatory in the district is at Darbhanga. The temperature and other meteorological conditions as indicated by the data of this station may be taken as representative of those in the district in general. The cold weather commences by about the middle of November when temperature begins to drop fairly rapidly. January is the coldest month with the mean daily maximum temperature at 23 5°C (74.3°F) and the mean daily minimum at 9.90°C (49.8 F). During cold waves which affect the district in association with the passage, eastwards, of western disturbances, the minimum temperature may go down to a degree or two above the freezing point of water. The days become warmer in March while the nights continue to be cool. Both day and night temperatures begin to increase rapidly after the middle of March till May which is the hottest month, when the mean daily maximum temperature is 35.8°C (96.4°F) and the mean daily minimum is 24 3°C (75.7°F). The heat in summer is intense and the maximum temperature during the latter half of summer may sometimes rise above 43°C (109.4°F). With the onset of the south-west monsoon by about the second week of June, there is a drop in the day temperature But the night temperatures throughout the monsoon are higher than those in the summer season. The monsoon does not bring much relief from the heat as the weather is oppressive on account of the increased moisture in the air and continuing high night temperature. In October, while the day temperatures continue as in the south-west monsoon months, the nights are cooler.

The highest maximum temperature recorded at Darbhanga is 43.9°C (111.0°F) in 1922 April 28 and the lowest minimum was 1.1°C (34.0°F) in 1933 January 15, and in 1905 February 2.

Humidity

The humidity is high in the south-west monsoon season and is comparatively less in the post monsoon and winter months. The driest part of the year is the summer season when the relative humidities in the afternoons are often below 40 per cent.

Cloudiness

In the winter and summer months, skies are generally clear or lightly clouded. Cloudiness increases in May and in the monsoon season skies are heavily clouded to overcast. Cloudiness decreases thereafter.

Winds

Winds are generally light. From May to October winds are mainly easterly. Winds are variable in direction in the post-monsoon and early winter seasons, thereafter westerlies appear. From about March easterlies also appear and these predominate after May.

Special weather phenomena

Storms and depressions which originate in the Bay of Bengal, particularly those in the late monsoon and post-monsoon period sometimes move in a northerly direction and affect the district and its neighbourhood causing widespread heavy rain. Thunderstorms occur in the latter half of summer and in the monsoon season. Some of the thunderstorms in April and May are violent. Occasional fogs are experienced in the winter season, during mornings.

Tables 3, 4 and 5 give the temperature and relative humidity, mean wind, speed and frequency of special weather phenomena respectively for Darbhanga.

TABLE

Normals and extremes

Station.	No. of years of date.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	August.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Samastipur	50	(a)14.5	23.6	12.2	18.3	59.2	206.5	358.4	423.4
		(b)1.1	1.5	1.0	1.2	3.0	8.1	14.4	15.3
Darbhanga	50	(a)10.7	16.0	12.5	20.1	59.9	182.4	313.7	332.7
		(b)0.9	1.6	1.1	1.4	3.8	8.5	13.4	13.5
Madhubani	50	(a)12.5	14.2	11.2	19.1	71.4	201.4	344.7	325.1
		(b)1.0	1.6	1.1	1.8	4.4	9.3	13.9	13.1
Bahora	50	(a)10.2	16.0	9.4	21.8	66.3	188.0	303.3	326.9
		(b)1.0	1.6	0.9	1.5	3.6	8.5	13.4	14.0
Rusera	50	(a)12.2	10.8	9.1	15.2	51.8	177.0	297.4	340.9
		(b)1.0	1.6	0.8	1.0	2.7	7.3	12.7	13.4
Khatauna	48	(a)9.7	14.5	13.7	32.8	103.9	243.2	353.9	322.8
		(b)0.0	1.4	1.0	2 2	4.8	8.9	12.5	12.2
Ladania	47	(a)7.4	14.7	9.0	29.2	77.7	202.7	308.1	266.7
		(b)0.6	1.4	0.8	1.9	4.6	7.3	10.1	9.0
Laukahi	48	(a)6.3	10.7	17.3	40.1	93.1	227.6	334.3	311.4
		(b)0.7	1.0	0.9	1.9	4.1	7.1	10.1	10.0
Khajauli	42	(a)10.2	11.2	9.9	29.5	78.2	224.5	333.0	293.1
		(b)0.9	1 4	0.7	2.2	4.2	9.1	11.7	12.0
Benipatti	42	(a)10.7	12.2	10.9	21.8	66.5	204.0	336.8	264.2
		(b)0.9	1.3	0.8	1.7	4.1	7.8	11.7	11.6
Madhopur	42	(a)11.9	16.3	8.6	25.9	66.0	214.4	368.5	331.5
		(b)1.0	1.5	0.8	1.7	3.7	9.3	13.8	13.1
Dalsingsarai	36	(a)11.4	18.5	7.4	7.4	33.0	140.7	232.4	280.2
		(b)0.9	1.5	0.7	0.6	2.0	6.3	10.3	11.0

(a) Normal rainfall in mm.
(b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain of 2·5 mm. or more).

...f rainfall.

September.	October.	November.	December.	Annual.	Highest annual rainfall as per cent of normal and year.*	Lowest annual rainfall as per cent of normal and year.*	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours.† Amount (mm).	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours.† Date.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
294.4	61.2	7.9	2.5	1482.1	240 (1938)	36 (1908)	283.0	1928 August 5.
11.1	2.8	0.5	0.2	60.2	..	..	..	
242.3	58.7	7.9	2.8	1259.7	154 (1949)	63 (1930)	266.7	1925 September 4.
9.8	2.4	0.5	0.3	57.2	..	..	..	
238.5	70.9	8.4	2.5	1319.9	136 (1921)	50 (1908)	397.5	1942 September 30.
9.8	2.7	0.6	0.2	59.5	..	..	..	..
229.6	53.3	9.1	2.8	1230.7	158 (1949)	41 (1908)	384.1	1889 September 23.
9.5	2.3	0.5	0.2	56.9	..	..	..	..
271.5	57.7	0.7	3.6	1265.9	158 (1909)	43 (1923)	307.3	1925 September 5.
10.0	2.5	0.5	0.2	53.7	..	..	..	..
261.6	84.3	11.2	2.5	1459.2	160 (1941)	41 (1908)	260.9	1905 September 30.
9.2	2.8	0.5	0.2	56.6	..	..	..	..
217.2	51.8	10.7	1.8	1197.9	165 (1924)	51 (1908)	203.2	1912 August 21.
7.0	1.9	0.4	0.2	44.0	..	.	..	..
231.9	72.0	8.6	2.3	1340.5	155 (1916)	48 (1905)	324.1	1913 June 28.
7.5	2.5	0.4	0.2	46.4	..	..	.	..
237.5	69.1	8.6	2.3	1307.1	135 (1913)	64 (1914)	398.5	1942 September 30.
8.9	2.5	0.4	0.2	54.2	.	..	..	..
225.0	61.2	6.6	3.3	1223.2	142 (1913)	67 (1932)	215.4	1942 September 30.
8.5	2.3	0.4	0.3	51.5	..	..	..	..
245.9	77.0	0.2	2.8	1381.0	157 (1916)	58 (1923)	353.1	1922 July 6.
9.4	2.7	0.5	0.3	57.8	..	..	..	..
241.3	54.9	0.9	3.3	1041.4	134 (1925)	63 (1944)	417.3	1925 September 5.
7.8	2.2	0.5	0.2	44.0	..	..	..	..

* Years given in brackets.
† Based on all available data up to 1958.

TABLE

Normals and extremes

Station.	No. of years of date.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Mohiuddinagar.	37	(a)14.7	18.5	7.4	11.2	30.5	122.7	239.3	258.3
		(b)1.2	1.6	0.6	0 7	1.9	6.1	11.6	11.6
Umgaon	17	(a)11.4	15.5	11.2	23.1	111.5	226.6	319.0	275.1
		(b)1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	4.9	8.6	11 6	11.4
Phulparas	37	(a)6.9	10.9	11.9	30.5	82.8	185.7	324.4	253.0
		(b)0.5	1.0	0.4	1.6	3.7	7.1	11.5	9.5
Kusheswarasthan	9	(a)18 3	26·2	5.0	25.1	37.1	118.6	255.0	227.1
		(b)1.1	1.8	0.3	1.8	2.4	5.6	12.9	12.1
Jale	37	(a)12.2	11.4	0.7	21.1	55.1	161.8	293.4	277.9
		(b)1.1	1.4	0.0	1.3	3.4	7.5	10.6	10.9
Laukaha	35	(a)8 1	9.4	9.1	30.2	83.1	208.3	334.5	265.7
		(b)0.6	0.7	0.6	1.8	4.0	7.0	9.8	9.5
Jaynagar	28	(a)9.7	11.2	15.5	26.0	78.2	204.0	333.5	280.3
		(b)0.5	1.0	0.8	1.5	4.0	7.9	11.7	10.3
Madhwapur	10	(a)15.2	15.5	14.7	25.9	100 6	215.1	308.1	209.1
		(b)1.2	1.4	1.1	1.1	4.1	7.3	9.5	11.1
Bacheuli	27	(a)8.0	18.5	4.0	11.9	61.2	185.7	340.6	339.3
		(b)0.9	1.4	0.4	0.8	2.0	7.7	12.7	11.8
Darbhanga (District)	..	(a)11.1	15.6	10.6	23 2	69.4	192.4	316.1	300.3
		(b)0.9	1.4	0.8	1.5	3.6	7.7	11.9	11.7

(a) Normal rainfall in mm.
(b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain of 2.5 mm or more).

I.

of rainfall.

September.	October.	November.	December.	Annual.	Highest annual rainfall as per cent of normal and year.*	Lowest annual rainfall as per cent of normal and year.*	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours.† Amount (mm.).	Date.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
206.8	55.4	8.1	4.8	977.7	147 (1918)	53 (1923)	254.0	1952 June 18.
8.5	2.5	0.5	0.3	47.1	..	.	..	..
290.8	84.3	5.6	0.0	1374.3	128 (1946)	73 (1950)	441.5	1942 September 30.
9.8	3.0	0.2	0.0	55.0	..	..	..	..
201.2	54.9	6.3	1.3	1169.8	183 (1949)	63 (1914)	266.7	1948 July 4.
7.1	2.2	0.3	0.1	45.3	..	..	..	..
221.0	55.6	9.4	0.0	999.0	135 (1941)	74 (1943)	184.1	1956 June 21.
9.1	3.5	0.7	0.0	51.3	..	..	..	.
204.7	53.3	6.3	3.3	1110.2	136 (1949)	49 (1950)	406.4	1917 September 24
8.8	2.3	0.4	0.3	48.9	..	..	..	..
233.2	54.0	6.3	2.5	1245.0	148 (1938)	65 (1948)	261.9	1926 September 25.
7.3	1.9	0.3	0.3	43.8	.	..	..	..
215.1	73.1	9.7	3.6	1261.4	168 (1938)	35 (1950)	274.6	1926 July 2.
8.2	2.7	0.3	0.2	49.2	.	..	..	..
259.6	64.3	10.9	0.5	1339.5	154 (1946)	44 (1914)	290.8	1935 September 18.
8.1	2.4	0.1	0.1	47.5	.	..	..	..
296.7	55.6	15.0	2.8	1840.0	49 (1936)	34 (1923)	439.4	1925 September 4.
8.3	2.1	0.4	0.2	49.6	..	..	..	..
241.2	63.1	8.9	2.4	1254.8	139 (1905)	50 (1908)	..	..
8.8	2.5	0.4	0.2	51.4	..	..	.	..

*Years given in brackets.

†Based on all available data up to 1958.

TABLE 2.

Frequency of Annual Rainfall in the District.

(*Data* 1901—1950.)

Range in mm.		Number of years.	Range in mm.		Number of years.
601—700	..	1	1201—1300	..	13
701—800	..	0	1301—1400	..	8
801—900	..	1	1401—1500	..	4
901—1000	..	2	1501—1600	..	6
1001—1100	..	5	1601—1700	..	3
1101—1200	..	5	1701—1800	.	2

TABLE 3*

Normals of Temperature and Relative Humidity.

Month.	Mean Daily Maximum Temperature.	Mean Daily Minimum Temperature.	Highest Maximum ever recorded.		Lowest Minimum ever recorded.		Relative Humidity.	
							0830	1730*
	°C	°C	°C	Date	°C	Date	Per cent	Per cent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
January	23·5	9·9	28·9	1932 January 7 .	1·1	1933 January 15 ..	83	63
February	25·6	11·6	33·3	1943 February 24 ..	1·1	1905 February 2 ..	74	53
March ..	31·7	15·9	40·6	1941 March 23 ..	7·2	1908 March 1 ..	55	38
April	35·9	21·1	43·9	1922 April 28 ..	11·7	1912, April 1 ..	56	37
May	35·8	24·3	43·8	1958 May 27 ..	17·2	1948 May 28 ..	64	53
June	34·0	25·8	43·3	1931 June 4 ..	20·0	1955 June 4 ..	77	69
July	32·2	26·3	38·3	1942 July 9 ..	24·7	1945 July 14 ..	83	77
August	31·8	26·1	37·2	1957 August 21 ..	21·1	1912 August 24 ..	82	80
September ..	31·9	25·8	36·7	1944 September 14	19·4	1896 September 28	78	79
October	31·3	22·0	36·1	1938 October 5 .	14·4	1914 October 21 ..	72	71
November	28·4	15·2	33·3	1943 November 1 ..	7·2	1926 November 18	76	66
December	24·8	10·9	29·1	1943 December 2 .	4·4	1908 December 28	84	66
Annual	30·6	19·6	..	.	..	..	74	63

*Hours I. S. T.

TABLE 4.

Mean Wind Speed in Km/hr.

January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Annual.
2.3	5·2	4·2	6·3	7·6	7·1	6·1	5·5	4·3	2·3	1·5	1·6	4·3

TABLE 5.

Special Weather Phenomena.

Mean number of days with	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Annual.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Thunder ..	0·5	0·5	0·7	1·1	1·5	1·6	0·8	1·8	1·3	0·1	0·1	0·3	10·3
Hail ..	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·1	0·2	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·3
Dust-storm .	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·5	1·0	0·2	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0	1·7
Squall ..	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0
Fog ..	2·2	1·0	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·0	0·1	0·1	0·2	0·9	4·5

TEMPERATURE.

(Based on Observations from 1881 to 1940)

STATION—DARBHANGA.

Month.	Mean Daily Max.	Daily Min.	Mean Highest in the month.	Lowest in the month.	Highest recorded.	Extreme Date and year.	Lowest recorded.	Date and year.	Relative Humidity.	Rainfall Mean Monthly total inches.
	°F	°F	°F	°F	°F		°F			
January	74·3	49·8	78·2	43·7	84	7 1932	34	15 1933	85 I 58 II	0·44
February .. .	77·9	52·9	84·4	45·9	92	24 1909	34	2 1905	76 I 57 II	0·53
March	88·0	60·5	96·9	52·0	104	27 1909	45	1 1906	57 I 34 II	0·51
April	97·0	69·8	103·2	62·5	111	28 1922	53	1 1912	59 I 26 II	1·3
May	93·2	75·5	104·6	68·1	110	27 1915	64	8 1907	67 I 52 II	2·51
June	92·9	78·5	100·3	72·7	110	4 1931	69	1 1936	80 I 69 II	7·58
July	89·7	79·4	95·3	75·5	101	4 1908	71	20 1919	86 I 75 II	12·12
August	89·1	79·1	93·8	75·0	98	29 1939	70	24 1912	85 I 79 II	13·51
September	89·2	78·5	93·8	73·5	98	25 1908	67	28 1899	80 I 78 II	9·24
October	88·2	71·6	92·0	64·2	97	5 1938	58	21 1914	74 I 69 II	2·30
November	82·9	59·5	86·2	52·8	92	2 1940	45	18 1926	78 I 65 II	0·27
December	76·4	51·8	79·9	45·8	85	4 days 1930	40	28 1908	86 I 66 II	0·12

I—At 0830 Hrs I. S. T.
II—At 1730 Hrs I. S. T.

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

(*i*) *Influence of Geography on the history of Darbhanga.*—The district of Darbhanga, extending from Nepal in the north to the borders of Monghyr in the south, Muzaffarpur in the west, and Saharsa in the east, fairly represents the centre of the territory once known as Mithila. Bounded on the north by a hilly region, in the south, west and east by the rivers, Ganga, Gandak and Kosi respectively, the district has maintained a distinct individuality of its own. The geographical features of the district, assuring a certain amount of security and seclusion, are responsible for the evolution of a somowhat characteristic culture, known popularly as Maithila culture. The geographical situation has given an almost unbroken continuity of life and pattern of culture since time immemorial and at the same time it accounts for the insularity and exclusiveness for which the Maithilas are well known. Darbhanga district is a typical example of the influence of geography on history and culture of a land. The innumerable rivers and rivulets of the district, the alluvial soil and the usual monsoon rains make the tract one of the most important productive centres of Bihar and the area has rightly been described as the granary of north India. The surplus agricultural products kept the people economically contented and their daily requirements had been so few that they could pull on without any dependence on others. It is this geographical aspect of history that marks the people of this region from those living around. Sir George Abraham Grierson did rightly emphasise on this point in his writings on the life and culture of the people of Mithila. It was as a result of this assured security on account of geographical features that traditions could grow unhampered and the literary pursuits in different directions continued unabated through the ages. The climate of Darbhanga is responsible for the characteristic ease-loving complacent attitude and excessively talkative character of the people. Naturally, therefore, the philosophic discussions and erotic poems found a fertile soil in the district where people are allergic to hard work. The people are generally of a high keen intellect and are well adept in conversations.

(*ii*) *Early History.*—There are practically no prehistoric sites in the district though remains of the earliest aboriginal population can be seen in some parts of the district Hunter in his *Statistical Account* has referred to the existence of a people, known as the *Tharus*, in the subdivision of Madhubani. The Bhars are also believed to have belonged to some aboriginal race, though nothing positive about them is known to us from any reliable source. The Bhar settlements in the north-eastern part of the district indicate that they possibly wielded some power

in the remote past. From a work entitled *Kiratajanakirti*, recently edited and published by Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterji, it appears that the Kiratas also inhabited the district for a considerable period of time. The Kiratas were a powerful people and they had strong cultural background. The *Mahabharata* throws a flood of light on the Kirata culture. Prior to the aryanisation of this land the area seems to have been under the aboriginal population and Siva worship was predominant. The association of the family of Janaka with the worship of Siva is an indication of the fact that though they were the vanguard of Aryan culture they had to compromise with the local religious belief, dominated by the Saivas.

Darbhanga lay on the great lines of Aryan immigration at a time when other parts of Bihar was outside the pale of Aryanism. According to a legend, Darbhanga formed a part of the territory in which the Videhas settled on their migration from the Punjab. Agni (*Vaiswanara*), god of fire, accompanied the Videhas on their march eastwards from the banks of the Saraswati and when they came to the broad stream of the Gandak, also known as Sadanira, informed them that their home lay on the east of the river. The Videhas thenceforward lived to the east of the Gandak, where they cleared the marshes, cultivated the virgin soil and founded a great and powerful Kingdom. The Kingdom included a greater portion of the modern district of Darbhanga. The kingdom, thus founded, was known as the kingdom of Videha and in course of time it came to be ruled by a successive line of kings commonly known as Janakas. Around this family clings a halo of legend since the kingdom of Videha was the most civilized in the then India. The court of Videha was an important centre of learning where scholars from all over the country flocked together. *It was at Videha where Janaka* ruled, Yajnavalkya legislated and Gautama meditated.* The studies at the court of Videha enriched various branches of the Vedic literature and Yajnavalka inaugurated the stupendous task of revising the Yajurveda. The philosophical speculations of Janaka, enshrined in the *Upanishadas*, are still cherished with veneration. As opposed to excessive ritualism of the time, a deeper enquiry was agitating the minds of some of the sober scholars of the court of Videha and it was in this respect that the name Yajnavalka stands out among the seers of the Vedic age. Both Janaka and Yajnavalka enquired into the ultimate reality of this world, the mystery of life and death, the essence of all manifestations. The *Upanishads* record the speculations of these master minds of Videha. Jajuar, a village in the district of Darbhanga, is still associated with the study of Yajurveda. Janaka and Yajnavalka gave a shape to the idea

*It is not possible to say if this Janaka is the same as Janaka Siradhvaja, the father of Sita. He has been identified by some with Mahajanaka II of the Jatakas (P. C. R. C.).

of the realisation of self which supplanted completely the old Vedic retualism in course of time.

The epics like the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana* throw a good deal of light on the political history of the district. If tradition is to be relied upon, the Pandavas during their exile visited some portions of the present district and Pandoul is associated with them. The *Ramayana* gives a good account of the family of Janaka. Janakapura, capital of the Videhas, is situated at a short distance to the north-west of the district in the Nepal territory and tradition points to the village of Phullahara in the north-east corner of the Benipatti thana as the flower garden where the king's priests used to gather flowers for worship, and identifies its temple with that of Devi Girija worshipped by Sita before her marriage with Rama. Legends and traditions associate this district with a number of sages and master minds of ancient times. Village Kakraul is associated with Kapil, Ahiari with Ahalya, wife of Gautama, Bisaul with Viswamitra and Jagban with Yajnavalkya. The *Mahabharata*, the *Ramayana* and the *Puranas* contain innumerable references to Mithila. The *Yajnavalkyasmriti* is ascribed to the great sage of Mithila. The dynasty of Janaka came to an end when the king became tyrannical and behaved improperly with his subjects[1]. According to the Buddhist and Jain sources and Kautilya, the people of Mithila did away with the office of the king when the king moved away from the tradition of a benevolent monarch and there was established in Mithila a *Samgha* or federation on purely republican lines.

The earliest event, which, however, can claim historic reality is the rise of the Vrijji republic. The republican institution replaced the old monarchical system of north Bihar and the centre of gravity shifted from Videha to Vaisali. Long before the advent of the Buddha, the Vrijji confederation ruled without a king. The confederation consisted of eight republics of north Bihar of which Videha was one[2]. At the time of Buddha, Videha was a republic and an acting member of the Vrijjian confederacy. According to Rahul Sankrityayana, the territory of the Lichchavis included a portion of the present district of Darbhanga upto the confines of the river Kamla beyond which lay the territory of Anguttarap. Thus it appears that in the age of the Buddha, the present district of Darbhanga lay within the republican territories of Vaisali, Videha and Anguttarap and it was in the village of Apana of the Anguttarap region that Buddha stayed for over a month. The territory of Anguttarap included the northern portion of the present district of Monghyr, portions of the districts of Darbhanga

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1. For details see R.K. Choudhury "*Early History of Mithila*" in the Journal of the Bihar Research Society (1952); *Vaidehi Vishesanka* (Darbhanga) of 1960.

2. R. K. Choudhury "*Early History of Vaisali* (in the Journal of Oriental Research Studies-Pardi-1949); *History of Bihar*; *Vaidehi Vishesanka* of 1960.

and Saharsa and the northern portion of the district of Bhagalpur.[3] We do not know exactly about the origin of the Lichchavi clan. Manu calls them Vratya Ksatriyas[4]. Though the headquarters of the Lichchavis was at Vaisali, they wielded political power over certain parts of the present district of Darbhanga. They are as important in the history of Darbhanga as they are in the history of Muzaffarpur[5]. The growing power of the Vrijji confederacy brought them into collision with the kingdom of Magadha, the limits of which roughly correspond with the modern districts of Patna and Gaya.

(*iii*) *Early Historic Period.*—Bimbisar, the first historic founder of the Magadhan imperial power, had strengthened his position by matrimonial alliances with a number of contemporary powers. He took one consort from the royal family of Kosal, a kingdom west of Tirhut, and another from the powerful lichchavi clan of north Bihar. His son Kanika Ajatasatru is called *Vaidehiputra* in the Buddhist literature. Bimbisar, with his capital at Rajagriha, aspired for imperial power and the ambition ran in the veins of his son as well. Ajatasatru subdued the Lichchavis and conquered the whole of north Bihar. By breaking the power of the Vajjians, he fulfilled the main ambition of his life and brought Mithila under the control of the Magadhan empire. Though the Lichchavias were defeated and the confederacy broken, yet the republics making up the confederacy continued to flourish not as sovereign political units but as distinct units under the imperial suzerainty of Magadha. The history of the Lichchavis comes down unbroken to the days of the imperial Guptas. The Lichchavis founded a kingdom in Nepal and even the earliest royal house of Tibet owed its origin to the Lichchavis of Vaisali. It is from the time of the conquest of Vaisali by Ajatasatru that the date of the foundation of Pataliputra begins. The migration of the Lichchavis to Nepal and Tibet marks a great event in the history of north Bihar and the district of Darbhanga must have played a dominant part in this great trek as the route to Nepal lay through this district.

Darbhanga must have shared in the religious ferment which so deeply stirred the hearts of the dwellers in the Gangetic valley in the sixth century B. C. Vaisali was the homeland of Jainism and a prominent centre of Buddhism as well. Since the whole of north Bihar was stirred with the teachings of these two great

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[3]. Rahul Sankritayana—*Buddacarya: G. D. College Bulletin, Series no. 2.*

[4]. R. K. Choudhary—*The Vratyas in Ancient India.*

[5]. For details about the Lichchavis, *see* P. C. Roy Choudhary's Revised Gazetteer of Muzaffarpur; *Report of the Archaeological Survey of India* of 1903-04; 13-14; Krishnadeva and Misra—*Vaisali Excavation Report* · *Journal of the Bihar R. Society.*

reformers (Mahavira and Buddha), it is only natural to infer that the people of Darbhanga must have actively participated in the propagation of these reform movements. According to one theory Mahavira himself was a Vaideha domiciled in the suburb of Vaisali and was the son of a daugther of Mithila. He spent a good portion of his life in travelling and propagating his mission in north Bihar. Jainism seems to have been a flourishing religion of the time though so little of Jainism has survived today in the land of its birth. Buddha also visited Mithila thrice and he had a great love for Vaisali.* The Vajjians were converted to his faith quite early. During his last visit to this city he presented his alms bowl to the people of Vaisali and the Lichchavis claimed the ashes of Buddha when he was cremated. In the recent excavations of Vaisali (1958-59) conducted by the K. P. Jayaswal Research Institute, Patna, a relic has been unearthed which is sought to be identified with this. It may be further noted here that Buddha's most devoted disciple, Anand, according to a tradition, was a Vaidehamuni, a monk of the land of Videhas. Both the Jain and the Buddhist literature contain innumerable references to the district of Darbhanga and its neighbouring territories. The second Buddhist Council was held at Vaisali. The council was necessitated by the laxity of the Vajjians. The Council settled some of the outstanding problems of the contemporary Buddhists.†

Even after the conquest of Vaisali by Ajatasatru, the Lichchavis and the Vaidehas continued to live as before and their republics survived for long without the sovereign political power, but free in their internal organisation and administration. The Lichchavis extended their political power to Nepal. In the *Mahavamsatika*, Sisunaga is said to be the son of a Lichchavi king born of Nagarasobhini and he is believed to have made Vaisali his second capital. The Nandas also extended their sway over the district of Darbhanga. The Mauryas, for the first time, succeeded in forming a powerful empire comprising the whole of India. The Mauryan rule gave peace and stability for a considerable period. The Mauryas were supplanted by the Sungas (185 B. C.) and the latter by the Kanvas. Very little is known to us about the history of India in general and Darbhanga in particular from the time of the Kusanas to the rise of the Guptas. If the traditional belief of Kanishka's taking away of Buddha's alms bowl be given any credence, then it may be presumed that the Kushans ruled over the portions of north Bihar. The Kushan coins have been discovered from the regions of north Bihar and Nepal. According to a tradition in Mithila, the village Andhra-Thadhi in the district of Darbhanga (near Jhanjharpur Station) is associated with the rule of the Andhras (Satvahanas)

*The Buddha stayed at Mithila and preached the Makhdeva and Brahmayu suttas.

† Mithila was also visited by Mahavira Vardhamana, the 24th Tirthankara.

in Bihar. A seal at Vaisali suggests that Mahakstrapa Rudrasimha was associated with north Bihar. K. P. Jayaswal in his *Imperial History of India* has suggested that between the fall of the Kushanas and the rise of the Guptas, the Bharasivas and the Vakatakas had ruled. Jayaswal associates Bharasivas with the Bhars of Darbhanga, Saharsa and north Monghyr. In the district of Darbhanga numerous villages viz., Bharapura, Bhaur, Bharairam, Bharagama, Bhara-ura, etc., associated with the Bhars and they claimed power down to the fifteenth century A. D. in the district. It also appears that after the fall of the Kushanas, the Lichchavis regained political power and it was as a result of the matrimonial alliance between the Lichchavis and the Guptas that the latter came to power in Magadha.

(iv) History of Darbhanga between 320 *and* 1097 *A. D.*—As a result of the aforesaid matrimonial alliance the Guptas succeeded in carving out a powerful empire. Chandragupta* assumed the title of Maharajadhiraj and struck coins in the joint names of himself and his queen Kumardevi and Samudragupta takes pride in calling himself a *Lichchavidauhitra*.† It was under the Guptas that the whole of north Bihar came to be known as the province of Tirabhukti. The capital of the province was at Vaisali. The archaeological discoveries at Vaisali disclose a highly developed form of Government. It was under the Guptas that the famous Chinese traveller, Fahien visited north Bihar during the reign of King Chandragupta II and found Buddhism declining. The Gupta rennaissance brought in its train the revival of the classical Sanskrit language. The temple at Uchchaith in the district of Darbhanga is fondly associated with Kalidasa though there is nothing positive to show that Kalidas was a Maithila. The Bhatta Mimamsakas of Darbhanga played a prominent part in the development of philosophical thought in north Bihar, Kumarila is also associated with Mithila. After the decline of the Gupta empire, the provincial governors became independent and the recent discovery of a copper plate from Katra (Muzaffarpur) shows that there was one Chamunda Visaya in the province of Tirabhukti. The plate has been edited by Sri S. V. Sohoni, I. C. S. Yasodharman also appeared on the scene like a meteor and vanished likewise. Harshavardhan conquered Darbhanga and annexed it to his kingdom.** The district of Darbhanga, like other parts of north Bihar became a victim to all ambitious powers, though the nature of their overlordship is not very clear. After the death of Harshavardhan, his Brahman minister, Arjuna, usurped the throne and insulted the Chinese

*This is, of course, Chandragupta I.

†Samudragupta has described himself as such in his Allahabad pillar inscription (Upendra Thakur—History of Mithila, page 159).

**During the reign of Harsha the Chinese pilgrim Hiuen-Tsang came to Tirhut in 635 A. D. and found Buddhism waning in that region (Upendra Thakur—History of Mithila—page 198).

mission which had come. The Chinese mission, with the combined forces of Tibet and Nepal, invaded Tirhut and overran it.* There is a local tradition that the old village of Amravati extended from Bhagwatipur in the north to Bajitpur in the south in the district of Darbhanga and this particular village was ravaged by the combined forces. Its ruins are still extant. The later Gupta ruler, Adityasena (A.D. 672) revived the glory of Magadha once again and routed the foreigners. His Mandar Hill inscription (now fixed on the Deoghar temple) is the earliest specimen of the Maithili script. After the fall of the later Guptas, Yasovarman of Kanauj is said to have conquered the district (700—740 A.D.). Since there was no political stability, the Gurjara Pratiharas, Palas, Rastrakutas, Chandellas and the Kalachuris came in quick succession but it is yet a matter of conjecture whether all of them conquered or ruled the area or not. Except the Palas no other power left any lasting impression on the district. Even the Chinese travellers like Hiuen-Tsang, Itsing and Sung Tun who visited Vaisali and Tirhut do not say anything about the political authority in a specific manner. Sung Tun has no doubt described Tirhut but does not help us materially in so far as the political history of the land is concerned. It should be noted that though the political suzerainty changed hands, that had no effect on the land. The cultivation of learning and its high incidence continued. Vachaspati Misra wrote on all the six schools of Hindu philosophy. Udayanacharya, one of the greatest exponents of the Nyaya system lived in village Karion in the present subdivision of Samastipur. Mimamsa and Nyaya were the hot favourites of the people of Darbhanga during the period under review.

The Palas of Bihar and Bengal, no doubt, played a very important part in the history of Darbhanga. The Palas from the very beginning of their rule exercised sway over Tirhut. Both Dharmapal and Devapal were powerful rulers.† We learn from the Bhagalpur copper plate of Narayanpal that he made grants for Siva temple in the Kaksa Visaya of Tirabhukti.** Names of the village and the Visaya of this grant are yet unidentified, but the fact remains that the Palas held sway over the whole of Tirabhukti. This is supported by the Imadpur image inscriptions of Mahipal I, Naulagarh inscriptions of Vigrahapal III (discovored and edited by Prof. Radhakrishna Choudhary) and the Bangaon

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* The defeat of Arjuna, the King of Tirabhukti, at the hand of the Chinese envoy Wang-hiuentse with the aid of Nepalese and Tibetan troops, scholars have taken to be of little historical importance, except as a general indication of the anarchy and confusion prevailing in north Bihar after the death of Harsha (R. C. Majumdar -The Classical Age, pp 124 -26; R. C. Majumdar—The History of Bengal, Vol. I, page 92).

†The years of the reigns of both Dharmapala and Devapala are C. 770—810 A. D. and 810 -850 A. D., respectively (R. C. Majumdar- The Age of the Imperial Kanauj (pp. 45 and 50).

**The Bhagalpur Copper Plate of Narayanpal was issued in his 17th regnal year, i. e. C 871 A. D. (Majumdar--History of Bengal, page 127).

copper plate of the same king (edited by Dr. D. C. Sircar). All these inscriptions show that the Palas had a continuous rule over north Bihar and naturally Darbhanga formed a part of it. The Bangaon copper plate states the existence of a new capital of the Palas, Jayaskandhavar Kanchanpur in Tirabhukti, and further informs us that there was one Hodreya Visaya in Tirabhukti. At a time when the Kalachuris were advancing towards Bengal and eastern India, the Palas seem to have transferred their head-quarters to north Bihar. The old theory of the existence of the rule of Kalachuri Gangeyadeva over Tirabhukti now does not stand in the light of modern researches and the theory has been rightly rejected by R. C. Majumdar, R. K. Choudhary and Luciano Petech. The Palas had stabilised themselves in north Bihar and they continued to rule till they were finally-ousted by the Karanatas in 1097 A.D. When the conflict between Vigrahapala III and the Kalachuri king became serious, Atisha Dipankar of the Vikramasila University, intervened and matrimonial alliance between the two was concluded. Sandhyakar Nandi, in his *Ramacharita*, has called it by the name of *Kapalasandhi*.

(*v*) *Darbhanga under The Karanatas of Mithila* (1097- -1325 *A.D.*) 6 —There is a good deal of controversy regarding the origin of the Karnatas of Mithila. They are connected with the Chalukya invasion of North India during the rule of Someswara I and Vikramaditya in the latter half of the eleventh century A. D. Nanyadeva was the founder of Karnatas dynasty of Mithila in 1097 A. D. He was a contemporary of Ramapal and Madanpala, Vijayasena and Vallalsena of Bengal, Govindachandra Gahadwal of Kanauj and Raghava of Kalinga. He distinguished himself in war and peace. There was tussle between the Karnatas of Mithila and the Senas of Bengal and the fact stands attested by the Deopara inscriptions of Vijayasena. Nanyadeva succeeded in stabilising his power in the Tirhut and in extending it to Nepal.* The Andhra-Thathdi Inscription of his minister, Sridhardas

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6. For details see R. K. Choudhary *The Karnatas of Mithila* in the Annals of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute-XXXV pages 91--121.

*Sometime about 1097 A.D. Nanyadeva established his supremacy over this region, probably with the aid of the Chalukya King Vikramaditya VI, who is known to have invaded Nepal shortly after 1068 A.D. Sylvain Levi thinks that Nanyadeva at first accepted service under an unknown king, and taking advantage of the weakness of his master, assumed sovereignty. Since the Palas of Gauda had under them many Karnata officers, it is not unlikely that Nanyadeva was an officer under the Palas and established a kingdom in Tirabhukti during the Kaivarta revolt.

He came in conflict with the kings of Gauda and Vanga, who seem to have been respectively the Pala King Kumarapala and the Yadava ruler Harivarman. Vijayasena of the Sena dynasty of Radda invaded Mithila and defeated Nanyadeva. Tradition relates that Nanyadeva conquered Nepal. If it be true, he could not certainly keep the conquered country under his control for a long time.

Sivadeva, the contemporary king of Nepal and his successors are known to have the title Rajadhiraja. (R. C. Majumdar, The Struggle for Empire, Bombay, 1957-60, pp. 47-48).

refers to Nanyadeva. His two important trustworthy ministers were Sridhardas and Ratnadeva of the Biarasam family of the Karan Kayasthas of Mithila. Ratnadeva accompanied him to Mithila in his early days.[7] Though he had his capital at Simaraongarh (now in the Nepal territory) he had temporary capitals in a number of places in the district of Darbhanga.

Through his skill and farsightedness, he maintained the individuality of his kingdom. He died in 1147 A. D.

He had two sons, Malladeva, the heir apparent and Gangadeva. The kingdom seems to have been divided after the death of Nanya. According to the Purusa-Pariksa of Vidyapati, Malladeva was associated with the court of Jayachandra Gahadawal. The Bheet Bhagwanpur inscription of Malladeva (Om Sri Malladevasya) leads us to suggest that he ruled over the eastern part of Mithila while Gangadeva, said to be the successor of Nanyadeva, ruled over the western part. Tradition asserts that one of Nanya's son ruled in Nepal and he is none else than Malladeva, about whom very little is known. Gangadeva was an efficient ruler. He is credited with having reorganised his administrative system on sound lines. He introduced the system of fiscal division or parganas for the purposes of revenue administration. A Choudhary was appointed in each pargana to collect the revenue and a *Panchayat* was chosen to settle all disputes. According to a legend, Gangadeva had his citadel at Laheraraja in the Bahera thana of the district. The two large tanks of Gangasagar near Darbhanga Railway station, and another at Andhra-Thathdi were excavated during his reign. He built a fort near Bairiya.

He was succeeded by his son Narasimhadeva who had a quarrel with his kinsmen in Nepal the upshot of which was that both Nepal and Mithila were separated. He was succeeded by his son Ramasimhadeva who was a pious devotee and a firm patron of sacred literature. Under this ruler several important commentaries on the Vedas were written or compiled. New social rules were framed and an officer was appointed to adjudicate upon all questions arising from the working of these new rules. He also made some administrative reforms. In every village a police officer was appointed to make a daily report of all occurrences worthy of note to the Choudhary or the head revenue collector. These officers were paid in land. He also instituted the system of Patwari. He is said to have excavated a large tank and

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[7]. Ratnadeva's line has been continued and could be traced.

Prof. R. K. Choudhary of Begusarai is direct descendent of Ramadeva.

sponsored an attractive garden at Darbhanga called after his name Ramdighi and Ramabagh respectively. The most important event of his reign is the visit of a Tibetan traveller, Dharmaswami, who was in Bihar between 1234 to 1236. He met Ramasimhadeva at his capital, Simaraongarh. According to Dharmaswami, the Tirhut king was strengthening his fortification on all sides as he always apprehended the muslim attack. The capital had a large population and Dharmaswami relates that he was very liberal. Ramasimha offered the office of chief priest to Dharmaswami who thankfully declined the offer as he had to return to Tibet.

Ramasimha was succeeded by Sakrasimha (or Saktisimha). He was a great warrior and despot. His despotism offended the nobles of his court and one of his ministers established a Council of Seven Elders as a check upon the autocratic power of the rulers. He is credited with having founded the modern village of Sakri in the district of Darbhanga. He was succeeded by his son. Harisimhadeva, the greatest king of the dynasty after Nanyadeva.* He is credited with having founded the city of Harisimhapur in the district. The Harahi Tank at Darbhanga is ascribed to him. He is famous in Mithila as the organiser of the Panji system. He was the most powerful chief of his time. In 1324-25 A. D. he was overpowered by the army of the Tugluq dynasty under Ghiyasuddin and he went to Nepal where he and his descendants ruled for a considerable period.

(*vi*) *Darbhanga under the Oinwaras* (1325—1525 *A. D.*)—After a temporary period of unstability, Darbhanga came under the control of the Oinwaras, also known as the Kameswara, Thakura or the Sugauna dynasty. These Hindu chiefs were left undisturbed by the Muslim conquerors, who had by now conquered the whole of Mithila and whose exploits are indicated. The Oinwara dynasty is noted for their encouragement of learning and fine arts and their court served as the centre of Sanskrit belles letters and philosophy. Among the prominent scholars of the age were Gadadhara, Samkara, Vachaspati Misra, Vidyapati, Amritakara and Amiyakara. Kameswara, the founder of the dynasty, was a resident of village Oini, near Pusa Road, in the district of Darbhanga. When Haji Ilyas of Bengal divided Tirhut into two parts, the Oinwar Raja shifted his capital to Sugauna near Madhubani. The southern part of the district was under Haji Ilyas and the northern part under the Oinwaras. The modern subdivision of Samastipur (originally Shamsuddinpur) was founded by Haji Shamsuddin Ilyas of Bengal. Sultan Firuz Tugluq was a fast friend of Oinwar Bhogiswara and Vidyapati confirms this point. Birasimha and

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* For further details of the reign of Harisimha see (R.C. Majumdar's; "The Delhi Sultenate, P-402, Sir Jadunath Sarkar's, The History of Bengal, Vol. II., p. 34)".

Kirtisimha of this dynasty went to Jaunpur with Vidyapati to seek the help of Ibrahim Shah Sarqui against Arslan who had usurped power in Mithila. Devasimha, father of Sivasimha, was a very powerful king and he founded Deokuli, near Laheriasarai. The most famous king of this line was Sivasimha. He was a brave warrior. He was a friend of Raja Ganesha of Bengal. He asserted the independence of Mithila and issued gold coins in his name, the two specimens of which were examined by scholars. What happened to Sivasimha after his defeat at the hands of Mulsim is yet a mystery in the history of Tirhut though wild conjectures have been hazarded by some recent scholars. He had his headquarters at the present site of Gajrathpur also known as Sibaisimhapur. After his defeat his wife Lakhima and Vidyapati took refuge at the court of Dronwara Puraditya at Raja Banauli. Lakhima was well known for her talents and culture and Grierson has ascribed some poems in Sanskrit and Maithili to Lakhima. After Sivasimha, came Padmasimha, Harisimha and Narasimhadeva whose inscription on the sun temple at Kandaha (Saharsa) is yet extant. Narasimhadeva was succeeded by Dhirasimha and the latter by Bhairava Simha. Bhairava was a very powerful ruler and like Sivasimha he also asserted his independence and issued silver coins. These coins were discovered by Prof. R. K. Choudhary and they have been published. These coins are in the regnal year 14 and are dated in the Saka Era. These two coins are very important for a study of the later Oinwara history and chronology. He is said to have defeated Kedar Rai, the representative of the Sultan of Bengal. He was succeeded by Ramabhadra and the latter by Laksminatha Kamsanarayana, whose capital at Kamsanarayana Dih can still be located in the district. An important inscription of his time has been discovered at Bhagirathapur (Darbhanga). It gives an account of the condition of contemporary Mithila[8].

(*vii*) *Darbhanga under the Muslims between* 1200 *and* 1556.—The Bayaz (travel diary) of Mulla Taquia, a courtier of Akbar, throws an interesting sidelight on the history of Darbhanga under the Muslims. The conquest of Mithila by Bakhtiyar Khalji is yet controversial. According to the Mulla, Bakhtiyar Khalji annexed the territory of Narasimhadeva but later on restored the kingdom of Darbhanga to the Raja on condition of payment of some tribute. Narasimhadeva continued to be tributary to Ghiyasuddin Iwaz (1213—1227) until the conquest of Sultan Altmash, who sent Nasiruddin Mahmud to punish Iwaz. Iwaz was defeated and captured and the territory of Darbhanga was restored to

[8]For a study of the Oinwaras, see R.K. Choudhary—*The Oinwaras of Mithila*—in the Journal of the Bihar Research Society 1951. *Vidyapati's Purusapariksa*—in the Journal of Oriental Thought; *The Bhagirathpur inscription of Kamsanarayana* in the Proceedings of the Indian History Congress, 1955; *History of Bihar*; *History of Muslim Rule in Tirhut*; *Mithila in the age of Vidyapati*.

Narasimhadeva. During the reign of Sultana Razia, Narasimha again asserted his independence but Tughril Tughan Khan violently routed the Raja's sovereignty. From the account of Dharmaswami, it appears that Ramasimhadeva had taken certain precautionary measures against the apprehended Muslim invasion. During the reign of Sakrasimha there was again a serious tussle with the Muslims. Sakrasimha rebelled against Alauddin Khalji and Alauddin's forces invaded Darbhanga. The place where the battle was fought is still known by the name of *Maqbara* in the town of Darbhanga. The royal army was defeated in the first instance but after the royal force was reinforced there was a great contest and the Sultan's army was again defeated. The Raja transferred his capital from Darbhanga to Sakri and it was here that the Raja was defeated in the third and the last contest as a result of which he and his ministers were arrested and taken as prisoners. When the Raja promised allegiance and regular payment of tribute, he was released and appointed Commander of the Hindu forces. Sakrasimha's son and successor Harisimhadeva was one of the powerful Hindu chiefs of the time. He entered into active alliance with rebellious Bahadur Shah of Bengal and helped him greatly to seize the kingdom of Bengal. Both of them flouted the authority of Ghiyasuddin Tugluq who started his fateful eastern campaign in 1323-24, with the object of conquering Tirhut and Bengal. Harisimhadeva was defeated and went to Nepal where he founded again a new line of rulers. The Tugluq conquest of Darbhanga became a reality in 1324 when it became a part and parcel of the Tugluq Empire. Darbhanga was re-named Tugluqpur and a great fort and a Juma Masjid were built here in 1326 A D. An original Arabic inscription yielding this data was seen by Mulla Taquia in the front wall of the original mosque. Darbhanga became a mint town too with the title of *'Iqlim Tughluqpur urf Tirhut*" and two copper coins of this mint are yet available.

With the passing away of the Karnatas, the central authority was further weakened and Darbhanga became a muslim dependency. Haji Samsuddin Ilyas Khan of Bengal asserted his independence and invaded Tirhut and Nepal. He conquered a great portion of Darbhanga and is credited with having founded the towns of Samastipur (Darbhanga) and Hajipur (Muzaffarpur)*. When Sultan Firuz Tughluq reached Tirhut. Kameswara Thakur and other feudatories approached the emperor and presented rarities and on his way from Bengal, the emperor gave the throne to his younger son *Bhogiswara*. *Chaos followed and one Arslan took advantage of the situation and usurped the kingdom of* Tirhut

* As an important currency town, Tirhut must have wielded some influence. Out of the two copper coins discovered from Tirhut, one is dated 731 A. H. (1330 A.D.) and bears the inscription "**Province of Tirhuta or Tughluqpur**" (Radha Krishna Chaudhery's article "Early Muslim Invasion of Mithila" in the Journal of Indian History, August, 1962, pp. 397-98).

Vidyapati took Birasimha and Kirtisimha to Jaunpur for seeking help against the usurper. The Sharquis took advantage of the situation. For a brief interlude, when Sivasimha asserted his independence, the kingdom of Tirhut was swinging like a pendulum between Bengal and Jaunpur, between Jaunpur and Delhi and so on. After the glorious reign of Sivasimha, it was Bhairava Simha of the Oinwara dynasty who put up a stiff fight against the Sultan of Bengal and issued coins in his own name. It was during the reign of Ramabhadra that the Sharquis were overpowered. If Mulla Taquia is to be relied upon, an inscription of the Sharqui ruler, Ibrahim Shah was there at Darbhanga when he was compiling his *Bayaz*. He has given the text of that inscription in his *Bayaz*. Sikandar Lodi was on friendly terms with Ramabhadra of the Oinwara dynasty. In 1496 he moved to Tughluqpur, Mobarak Lohani was entrusted with he task of collecting rent from Tirhut. According to a settltement with Alauddin Hussain Shah of Bengal, Sikandar Lodi retained Bihar, Tirhut and Saran and the district around Tughluqpur was conferred on Azam Humayun. After Ramabhadra Kamsanarayan came to throne, the aforesaid treaty was not long observed and Allauddin Hussain Shah occupied the whole of Saran and Tirhut. Nasrat Shah, whose inscription has been discovered from Matihani (Begusarai) finally defeated the king of Tirhut in 1527 and appointed his brother-in-law, Alauddin, as the Governor of Tirhut. After this event Hajipur became the political capital of north Bihar*. Under Shershah (1540-1545) the whole of Tirhut remained under him and a few coins of Islam Shah, discovered from the district of Darbhanga in 1954-55, go to show that the Suras were in full enjoyment of the parasol of sovereignty in Tirhut. It was under Islam Shah that anarchy prevailed in Darbhanga and a native Revenue Officer Kesava Majmualdar (a Kayastha) usurped the government. He along with another officer Majlish Khan (A Brahmana) ruled Mithila for sometime. The *Majalisha Pokhara*, in the village of Upardhaha, eight miles to the east of Darbhanga, is attributed to Majlish Khan. After that the Bhara clan of the Rajputas ruled for some time. The rule of this dynasty was situated at village Bhaur, seven miles south-east of Madhubani and it continued to rule till 1569 only. The founder of this dynasty was Birbal Narayan, also called Rupanarayana who established his

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* The following events deserve mention here : The first battle of Panipat in 1526 had meanwhile uprooted the Lodis and established the Mughals under Babar. After his victory over the Afghans at Gogra in 1529, the province of Bihar passed under his rule. Babar has left in his Memoirs a list of countries subject to him and their approximate revenues. Tirhut appears in the list and its Raja is said to have paid a tribute of 250,000 silver tankas and 2,750,000 black tankas, or at 10 per silver tanka 275,000, in all 525,000 silver tankas. (Thakur-op. cit. pp. 418-19. Radhakrishna Chaudhary—*History of Bihar* Patna 1958. p.174).

During the time of Humayun, his brother Hindal was the Governor of Tirhut. He, by evacuating Tirhut, allowed Sher Khan an opportunity of extending and consolidating his territories in the region to the west of Bengal. (*Choudhary*— p.174. R.P.Tripathi—Rise and Fall of the Mughal Empire, Allahabad, 1960. p. 93).

capital at Amravati which is said to have extended as far as Bajitpur and it was possibly this Rupanarayana about whom we get a reference during the time of Babar. The Rajas of this family acknowledged the sway of the Karani Afgans. The whole district of Darbhanga was dotted with small baronies created by the Afgans.

(*viii*) *Darbhanga under the Mughals.*—Darbhanga did not prove to be a bed of roses for the Mughals. The Afgans, in collusion with the local Rajput rulers, had made it the centre of revolt against the Mughals. Taj Khan and Sulain Karrani had extended their sway upto Hajipur. The last Afgan ruler Daud gave way to Akbar in 1574 when the fort of Hajipur was captured. When the great mutiny of Bengal and Bihar broke out in 1590, Bahadur Badakshi usurped the kingdom of Tirhut, seized public treasury and extended his sway upto Hajipur and proclaimed himself king under the title Bahadur Shah. Sadiq Khan ultimately succeeded in killing the rebel, Bahadur Shah, and establishing the Mughal authority, Khan-i-Azam, the Governor of Bengal, appears to have bought off those local chiefs who had helped the imperialist to establish law and order by confirming them in possession of the lands they had hitherto enjoyed and by granting fresh Jagirs In this way a large number of petty muslim chiefs with their followers were permanently settled in the district. It was under Akbar that Darbhanga was made the seat of the Imperial Fauzdar or the military governor of Sarkar Tirhut and it was included in the province of Bihar.*

Law and order could not be effectively maintained and the district was the centre of occasional revolts and disturbances. In 1582 there was again a rebellion and at the battle of Nagar basti (Darbhanga) these rebels were defeated. Tarkhan Dewan's son Nur Muhammad was caught and beheaded. Mahalia Nurganj in Nagarabasti is still commemorated by his name. There is also a large field covered with thousands of martyr's tombs called *Ganj-i-Shahidans*. Taking advantage of the preoccupation of Raja Manasimha in South Bihar two Muslim rebel leaders from Bengal made raids into Darbhanga but they were ultimately defeated. The unsubjugated northern hill tribes and Pathan chiefs continued to trouble the Mughals and according to Ain-i-Akbari there were about a lakh of soldiers stationed within the vicinity of Darbhanga.† In 1628, Shujaat Khan was appointed Fauzdar

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*It may be mentioned that under Akbar, the Sarkar of Tirhut contained 74 Mahals, measured 260,464 Bighas and 2 Biswas, and its revenue amounted to 19,179,777-1/2 dams. (Ain-I-Akbari of Abdul Fazl, translated by H. S. Jarrett and second edition corrected by Sir Jadunath Sarkar. Vol. II. Calcutta, 1949.p. 169).

†A popular story is that Mihuir-En-Nisa (Nur Jahan), the widow of Sher Afghan, the Faujdar of Burdwan, passed through Darbhanga on her way to Delhi, following the death of her husband. The construction of Noor-Serai and of a royal mosque are associated with her visit (1607).

of Tirhut by Shahjehan. In 1643, Bakhtyar Khan was appointed Fauzdar of Darbhanga. Towards the close of Shahjehan's reign three Fauzdars held the Government of Darbhanga successively of whom the first was Mirza Abdul Rasul Khan whose established colony at Darbhanga is still famous as Rasulpur. The Mahalla Mirjapur still bears his name. He was succeeded by Sazawar Khan and he by Mirja Abdul Moali. Mirja sided with Aurangzeb against Shuza in the civil war. He was rewarded by Aurangzeb after his accession. Mirja Khan marched against the refractory Zamindars of Morang and annexed several productive parganas to the Sarkar of Tirhut, between the basins of Baghmati and Kosi. After him Masum Khan became the Fauzdar of Darbhanga and he renovated the original Juma mosque built by Muhammad bin Tuglug. He was succeeded by Gholam Mohammed Khan, Hadi Khan and Tarbiat Khan. After them came Asfandyar Khan who administered the district excellently for eight years till 1700 A.D. Then came Fidai Khan, Mulla Sheikh Muhammad Jiwan, the tutor of Aurangzeb. Jiwan was assisted by Govindaram as the deputy Fauzdar of Darbhanga. During the weak rule of Mohammad Shah (1719-1746) Raja Raghava Shimha of Bhanwara asserted his independence. It was Allivardi who brought this territory under control after a vigorous fight. He appointed Nawab Ahmad Khan Quairaishi as the Fauzdar of Tirhut of Darbhanga in 1741. His son-in-law, Zainulinn Ahmad Khan settled at Bhanwara for the management of Tirhut mahals.

(*ix*) *History of the Darbhanga Raj.*—According to a commonly accepted tradition Mahamahopadhaya Mahesh Thakur obtained the present Darbhanga Raj from the Mughal emperor Akbar in recognition of his scholarship. The dynasty founded by Mahesh Thakur is known as the Khandwala dynasty. Since the Bhara Rajputas and hill tribes were troubling the Mughals they thought it proper to settle the area with some local chiefs who could ably control the area. A reference to this effect is found in an inscription said to be in the Janakpur area of the Nepal territory and also in some of the local couplets. Mahesh Thakur died in 1569 and was succeeded by his second son Gopal Thakur who succeeded in quelling the Parmara Rajputas of Bhaura. It was during his reign that Todarmalla made his famous revenue settlement. He was succeeded by his brother Parmananda Thakur and after him came Subhankar Thakur. He shifted his capital from Bhaura to Bhanwara in the Madhubani subdivision. He is said to have founded the town of Subhankarpur near Darbhanga. He was succeeded by Purushottama Thakur. He was invited by the Imperial Revenue Collector at Kilaghat, Darbhanga and then treacherously murdered. He was succeeded by Sundar Thakur and the latter by Mahinath Thakur. He was engageed in a fight with Raja Gajasimha of Simaraon and he also conquerred the area of Morang. He was succeeded by his

brother Narapati Thakur and he by Raghava Simha, who asserted his independence against the Mughals. He was engaged in a sanguinary battle with the Raja of Bettiah. Allivardi brought him under control and gave him the title of Raja. Raghava Simha acquired the mukarrari lease of Sarkar Trihut and also fought with Raja Bhupasimha of Panchmahala in Nepal Terai. Bhupasimha was killed in the battle. His fight with Biru Kurmi is yet another important event of his reign. Biru Kurmi was the revenue collector of Raghava Simha in Mahal Dharampur (Purnea). Biru declared himself independent. Thereupon the Raja sent a large force to subdue him and he was defeated. Raghava Simha was succeeded by Visnusimha. Allivardi's forces came heavily upon this Raja on account of his habitual delay in payment of tribute. Visnusimha was helped by the ruler of Narhan State (Darbhanga). When the Darbhanga Afgans had revolted against the authority of Allivardi, Narendra Simha of Tirhut helped the Subedar of Bengal against Mustafa Khan, the Afgan leader. Narendra Simha succeeded Visnusimha. Lalkavi of Mangrauni has described the battle of Kandarpighat fought by Raja Narendra Simha against Raja Ramnarayana the Subedar of Patna. In this battle Narendra Simha came out victorious. He was succeeded by Pratapasimha who shifted his capital to Jhanjharpur. He was succeeded by Madhavasimha who shifted his capital to Darbhanga. During his time the Permanent Settlement took place. Though the revenue collector at that time did not accept all his claims, in 1807 under the orders of the Government of India the settlement of the present Darbhanga Raj was concluded with Raja Madhavasimha.* He was succeeded by Raja Chatra Simha who helped immensely the Government of India during the Nepal War. Lord Minto honoured him with the title of Maharaja, which has since been granted by the Government as a personal distinction to each successive proprietor of the State. The result of a decision of the Privy Council settled once for all that the estate was impartible. The estate came under the Court of Wards in 1860 and when Laksmiswarasimha came of age, he became the Maharaja and occupied the foremost place in the public life of Bengal and Bihar. He was succeeded by his brother Rameshwar Simha, who was for some time, Joint Magistrate at Bhagalpur. He was succeeded by his son Kameshwarasimha, the last Maharajadhiraja, who died on October 1, 1962. The estate has now been taken over by the Government of Bihar after the statutory abolition of the zamindaris.

(x) *The Darbhanga Afgans.*—In the eighteenth century the Darbhanga Afgans played a very important part in the history of Bihar. In order to reduce the rebellious chiefs of North Bihar, Allivardi took into his service a body of Darbhanga Afgans under Abdul Karim Khan and first sent them against the Banjar. The

*Kerr-Settlement Report of the Darbhanga district, 1904, p. 19.

Afgans showed courage and won the affection of Allivardi. According to the *Riyaz-us-Salatin*, Allivardi being aided by the Darbhanga Afgans suppressed the refractory and turbulent chiefs of North Bihar and succeeded in establishing law and order in this part. The Darbhanga Afgans were very ambitious and began to intrigue with the invading Maratha army. Mustafa Khan rebelled in 1745. The Afgans mercilessly murdered Haibatjang, son-in-law of Allivardi and Governor of Bihar. They sacked the City of Patna and its suburbs, looted treasures, dishonoured women and children, desolated villages, etc. The Marathas joined and re-inforced them. At last Allivardi started at the head of a big army defeated them near Barh. The Afgan ring leaders were killed. Allivardi captured their women but sent them to Darbhanga honourably and settled Jagirs on them for maintenance. The Raja of Bettiah had given shelter to the families of Afgan leaders like Shamsher Khan and Sardar Khan. Allivardi subdued them and treated the wife of Shamsher with due courtesy. The Afgan bid for supremacy was an event of exceptional importance in the 18th century. It accelerated the dismemberment of the Mughal Empire, helped the rise of the Sikhs, kept the East India Company under constant anxiety and influenced their north western policy. It was Allivardi who brought peace and security to the whole province.

(*xi*) *History of Darbhanga after* 1745 *A.D.*—During the first regnal year of the Emperor Alamgir II (1754) Haji Mohammad Khan was appointed the Fauzdar of Darbhanga who ruled for three years and was succeeded by Mahtha Bhikari Das, appointed by Raja Ramnarayan. Rai Mansaram succeeded Bhikari Mahtha as the Fauzdar of Tirhut in 1759. Mir Kasim appointed Mir Mehdi Khan as the Fauzdar of Tirhut in place of Mansaram. Rai Mansaram refused to part with power and consequently there was a tussle in which Mansaram was defeated. In 1762, Mir Mehdi was succeeded by Sheikh Abdur Shakur who was the last Fauzdar of Darbhanga before the advent of the Dewani. With rest of Bihar, Darbhanga passed under the British rule in 1764-65 after the decisive battle of Buxar. In the early days of the British administration a great part of the district was in a terrible state of uncertainty and insecurity. The trade routes were not safe. The correspondence of the first twenty years of the British rule presents an extraordinary picture of the lawless state. In June 1770, a Supervisor was appointed for Tirhut and other parts of Bihar and Warren Hastings constituted the full-fledged collectorship of Tirhut. In 1780 a separate Diwani Adalat was established at Darbhanga. The condition in the northern part of the district was far from satisfactory. The Zamindars on the borders of Nepal mocked at the British authorities. The Judge of Darbhanga wrote in 1782 —"They are all to a man villains and tyrants and many of them have long been in a state of petty warfare with the Government" and about ten years later the Collector described them as "almost savages, who never occupied themselves except

in hunting. The unsettled frontier between Nepal and Tirhut caused frequent troubles to the Government of Darbhanga. The Company's Government wrote to the Raja of Nepal on February 3, 1787, complaining that his men were encroaching on the borders of Tirhut with headquarters at Darbhanga. A letter from the Collector of Tirhut to the Board of Revenue in 1788 shows the difficulty in the settlement of disputes regarding some frontier villages. In 1792, Mr. R. Bathurst, Collector of Tirhut, wrote to Duncan supplying him with a list of articles imported from and exported to Nepal. The difficulties were further increased by the eternal trouble owing to the incursions of the Nepalese. Attempts to induce the Gurkhas to aid the British officers in the suppression of frontier dacoits proved fruitless and all remonstrances against their aggression were unavailing. The Collector of Tirhut reported that between 1787 and 1813 upwards of 200 villages had been seized by them upon one or other unjustifiable pretext and in 1815 he was again obliged to report that the Zamindars complained that in consequence of the incursion of the Nepalese, who had come down and burnt their villages and plundered their property, their Ryots had in many instances deserted and they were unable to pay their revenue. In the war (1813—15) which ensued near Jaynagar close to the Nepal frontier, villages had to be occupied by the British troops but no fighting took place in the district. It was only after the treaty of Sugauli that Darbhanga enjoyed peace and tranquillity.*

The whole system of the old administrative pattern changed as soon as the Britishers took over from the muslims after 1765. It took about fifteen years to settle down Warren Hastings, who abolished the dual Government, laid the foundation of the Indo-British administrative system. A Collector and Indian Dewan were appointed in each district to supervise the revenue administration. The period between 1781 and 1785 is one of the most important in the history of the British Indian administration. The jurisdiction of the Patna executive administration extended over Patna, Gaya, Shahabad and Tirhut. During the regime of Raja Kalyan Singh, Rairayan of Suba Bihar, Raja Madhava Simha of Darbhanga was confined under his orders In 1777, the Board of Directors directed the collection of detailed information for the purposes of revenue settlement. Mr. Grand, the founder of Indigo industry in Tirhut was appointed its first collector in 1782 and he began collecting detailed information and making settlements till 1787 when he was replaced by Mr. R. Bathurst. After November 1781, the revenue administration was thoroughly remodelled Tirhut, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga was formed into a separate Collectorate with Mr. Grand as the first Collector. The Revenue Department employed agency for controlling the conduct of farmers

*See the Old Records of Muzaffarpur district by P. C. Roy Choudhury, Gazetteer Revision Branch, for some details.

and protecting the rights of the ryots. Patwaris and Kanungos were appointed. several attempts for the removal of abuses failed and in 1786 a larger scheme was adopted. Districts were now organised into fiscal units and the Collector in each district was made responsible for the collection and settlement of revenue. A new officer known as Shristedar was added to the revenue office. In 1798 Muzaffarpur was made the headquarter of Tirhut. After the Permanent Settlement 1793 the Zamindars were made the permanent owners of the land and they were authorised to collect rents. The number of cases multiplied. The Raja of Darbhanga Madhavasimha, had some differences with Lord Cornwallis on the question of permanent settlement. The Raja declined to accept the terms proposed by the Darbhanga Collector and the Board on the ground that due allowance was not made for his *malikana* and dasturant. He claimed *Malikana* all over Sarkar Tirhut and claimed that the Rajaship of the whole Tirhut was conferred upon his ancestors by the Delhi emperor. The Collector did not acknowledge but ultimately in 1807 under the orders of the Government of India, the settlement of the present Darbhanga Raj was concluded with Raja Madhavasimha. At the time of Buchanan's survey of the districts of Bihar, Supaul and northern parts of Madhipura subdivision in Saharsa were then included in Tirhut and Purnea districts and Parganas Ballia, Bhusari, Naipur, Madpur, and Mulki of Begusarai subdivision were included in the district of Tirhut. It was after 1830 that the parganas of Naredigar, Malhnigopal and Narasinghapur Kurha were taken out of Tirhut and included in then Bhagalpur district. They are now in the district of Saharsa. Pemberton's report dealing with aforesaid Parganas is very interesting. The most populous town in pargana Naredigar was Jhanjharpur (now in the district of Darbhanga).

(xii) *Indigo plantation.*—Any account of Darbhanga would remain incomplete without a reference to the Indigo plantation in the district. The Indigo trade was a profitable business. On his appointment as the Collector of Tirhut Mr. Grand started Indigo cultivation*. He wrote in 1785—"I introduced the manufacture of Indigo after the European manner, encouraged the establishment of Indigo works and plantations and erected three at my own expense." In a list of February 4, 1788, the Collector gave a list of 12 Europeans, not in the Company's services, residing within the jurisdiction of Tirhut Collectorate, ten of whom were said to have been in possession of Indigo works. Francis Rose, one of the planters, forcibly set himself down in the midst of Raja Rajballabha's Jagir in Tirhut and started Indigo cultivation. In 1787 Cornwallis sent for Mr. Grand to Calcutta and praised his work but to Mr. Grand's utter surprise, he was ordered to become Judge of Patna. The cause of his transfer was his interest in

*See Muzaffarpur and Champaran District Gazetteers by P.C. Roy Choudhury; also 'Inside Bihar' by P. C. Roy Choudhury and 'Gandhiji's First Struggle in India' by P.C. Roy Choudhury.

private enterprise as an Indigo cultivator. Mr. Grand protested but all in vain as Mr. Bathurst was appointed Collector. In 1793 the Collector submitted a list of Indigo factories in Tirhut. The number had by then increased to nine and Mr. Neav, the Judge, had to look after the maintenance of peace in that area. All British subjects had to reside within ten miles of the area unless they had a special license from the Governor General. In 1793, Mr. Neav ordered a French man and one Mr. Thomas Parke, who had settled at Sarai and Singia respectively without license to quit Tirhut. James Arnold of Dholi had beaten a Brahman and so he was warned by Mr. Neav. In 1803 the Collector reported that there were 25 Indigo concerns including those of Daudpur, Saraya, Dholi, Athar, Shahpur, Kanti, Motipur, Deoria, Bhawrah, Muhammadpur, Belsar, Pipraghat, Dalsinghsarai, Jitwarpur, Tiwara, Kamataul, Chitwara and Pupri and Shapurundi. In 1810 the Collector wanted to give credit to the Indigo planters and urged upon the necessity of encouraging Europeans in every field of commerce and facilitating their means of circulating ready cash among the labouring classes. In 1828 the Collector suggested some restrictions on Indigo industry. According to a revenue survey of 1850, there were 86 factories in the district of Tirhut. The planters formed their own organisation. In 1877 the Bihar Indigo Planters Association at Muzaffarpur was recognised by the Government. These Planters were very oppressive and the Lt. Governor of Bengal Mr. Eden was very anxious to improve the relations between the planters and the ryots. When the cheap Indigo dye from Germany was introduced in 1895, the industry in Tirhut was hardly hit* and it was after 1914 that the industry got some impetus only due to the First World War. But after normal conditions were restored indigo industry came back to its previous slump.

The Indigo industry was already on its last legs when Gandhiji came to Champaran in 1916 and led the agitation against the European Indigo planters for their various omissions and commissions. Prior to Gandhiji's visit in the first decade of the 20th century there was another great agitation against the Indigo planters by a few raiyats of Champaran district which had assumed a great proportion but was put down with ruthlessness from the Administration. Gandhiji's work in Champaran district in connection with the Indigo plantation led to the formation of an Enquiry Committee and the administration was forced to take ameliorative measures.†

The Indigo industry was already uneconomic in face of synthetic Indigo imported from abroad and slowly the European Indigo

*Ibid.

†See Gandhiji's First Struggle in India by P. C. Roy Choudhury (published by Navajiwan Publishing House, Ahmedabad): Dr. Rajendra Prasad's Autobiography, etc.

planters gave up the Indigo cultivation and the Indigo concerns became so many agricultural farms. A few of the planters remained behind and became gentlemen-farmers. Some of them took a remarkable interest in developing agriculture on better techniques. Some of the European planters and their successors have left excellent memoirs on birds, plants, etc.*

(*xiii*) *The* 1857 *Movement*.—The movement of 1857 was a momentous event.† Portions of Bihar were very much affected. Although Darbhanga did not have any direct contact of Kooer Singh's activities there was a great stir of popular feelings. A number of Bhojpuri folksongs came to be composed about the movement. Sir Edwin Arnold and G. A. Grierson have translated some of those songs. At this time the district of Darbhanga was a part and parcel of Sarkar Tirhut or Tirhut district which also comprises the present district of Muzaffarpur. The adjoining district of Saran and the present district of Muzaffarpur were in the zone of direct troubles. In the present district of Darbhanga there was a great apprehension that the insurrectionists from the adjoining districts would break into the town. One body had entered from the Terai area but they remained unsuccessful. The Collector of Tirhut had reported about the seditious character of Ali Karim. Attemps were made to keep safe the roads between Poosa and Darbhanga and active military patrol aided by the watch of the European planters kept the roads safe between Poosa and Darbhanga and went to nip many a troubles at the very beginning. It is remarkable that no thanas were burnt. The local authorities were instructed not to admit Brahmin, Rajput Zemindar, Babhan and Kayasthas to any service of importance. Arrangements were made for the protection of the Thanas of Bhawra, Khajouli and Laukaha in the district. After normal conditions were restored there was a strict centralised rule and certain administrative changes followed. It was felt that the Tirhut district was far too unwieldy and should be split. In 1875 Tirhut district was divided into Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga districts. Since 1875 the history of Darbhanga district has been more or less an administrative history mostly common to other parts of Bihar.

(*xiv*) *History of freedom movement since* 1875.—The formation of the Indian National Congress in 1885 formed a landmark in the history of India. The people of Darbhanga did not lag behind in this respect. As mentioned elsewhere Maharaja Lakshmiswar Singh was a man of liberal ideas and he took an active part in the passage of the famous Bengal Tenancy Act of 1885. He was an ardent supporter of constitutional reform and since 1885 he gave financial help to the Congress organisation. His brilliant

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*See Minden Wilson's Reminiscences of Bihar (1908).

†See K. K. Datta's History of the Freedom Movement in Bihar (3 volumes); Baldev Prasad's *August Kranti Ka Ithas*.

speech on the Sedition Bill (Section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code) was thought remarkable coming from an important landholder*.

The district got a new lease of life in the national movement after the Champaran Satyagraha of Mahatma Gandhi. Darbhanga was equally groaning under the deadweight of the Bihar Planters Association and a bureaucratic administration. The emergence of Mahatma Gandhi came as a relief to many. Sri Brajkishore Prasad and Shri Dharanidhar Prasad of Darbhanga had joined Mahatma Gandhi in the Champaran struggle. When Gandhiji sponsored the Non-Co-operation movement Darbhanga participated in it†. A good number of people left their professions and made great sacrifice at the call of Gandhiji. As a result of the growing national movement, the All India Spinning Association was started at Madhubani and a national school was started at Samastipur. In the wake of the national movement came some of the important social reforms. Agitation for the abolition of the Parda system was started. A movement for the propagation and production of Khadi was also started. In 1927-28 the youth movement was started. The first organised civil disobedience movement was started in 1930-31 in which a large number of people in the district, irrespective of caste, creed religion and sex, courted arrest. Prominent among them were Sri Satyanarain Singh, Sri Dharanidhar Prasad, Jankiraman Misra, Anandkishore Das Srinarain Das and others. The Majhouliya Asram was a main centre of their activities. The civil disobedience movement further awakened the people of Darbhanga which contributed a major share in the national movement of Bihar. Freedom of speech and other civil rights were curtailed and the popular urge of the people was suppressed with acts of reprisal under the cloak of law and administration. After the situation calmed down, people concentrated on the constructive work and the Congress organisation was spread to the remotest village in the district. The Congress continued to be the only political organisation in the country and the same was the case in the district.

The great Bihar Earthquake of 1934 severely hit Darbhanga. This has been covered elsewhere. The August revolution of 1942 shook the district and here again Darbhanga gave a very good account of itself. In most of the villages people took control of

*It was believed that he contributed Rs. 10,000 a year to the Congress. In 1890, he and the Raja of Vizianagram contributed Rs. 6,000 each towards the cost of Surendranath Banerjea's deputation to England. In the same year it was believed that the Maharaja of Darbhanga had given Rs. 2,000 to W.C. Bonnerjee as his first instalment towards the expenses of the next Congress. In 1893, the Maharaja contributed Rs. 20,000. Again, in 1893 and 1895 an "Indian Friend", who was supposed to be the Maharaja of Darbhanga, gave Rs. 15,000 to the permanent fund of the Congress and Rs. 3,000 to the special fund for the journal 'India'. (*For* details see P.C. Ghosh—The Development of the Indian National Congress, Calcutta, 1960, pp. 8—10).

†See 'Gandhiji's First Struggle in Champaran'; 'Inside Bihar' by P C.Roy Choudhury.

the administrative machinery and organised Panchayat courts. For three months there was practically a negation of the British administration. There were also, unfortunately, some violent action on the part of the freedom fighters. There was severe reprisals. All the important leaders, Satyanarain Singh, Jankiraman Misra, Harischandra Misra, Harinath Misra, Ananda Kishore, Rameshwar Lal Dass, Srinarain Dass, Suryanarain Singh, Anirudh Singh, Lakshman Jha, Kanaka Jha and many were either arrested or had to remain absconding for years. Darbhanga gave shelter to a number of secret workers who organised conspiracy against the then regime as it lay on the route to Nepal. Like some of the other districts of Bihar Darbhanga played a very important role in the August movement. The hero of the August revolution, Sri Jayaprakash Narayan and his comrades also spent a few days in this district during the revolution of 1942. The district was visited by European military units and they did many a reprehensible act in the course of putting down the movement. The advent of Independence in 1947 was hailed with great delight in this district along with the other parts of the country.

(*xv*) *Conclusion.*—In concluding this short sketch of the history of this district the following summary of its main achievements may be quoted :—"The history of Darbhanga does not centre round valiant feats of arms, but round courts engrossed in the luxurious enjoyment of literature and learning. . . .it must be duly honoured as the home of where the enlightened and learned might always find a generous patronpeace and safety. Before 1000 B.C. it was the great centre of Hindu learning, from the sixth century B.C. Vaisali was a Buddhist stronghold when eventually the first flood of Musalman invasion did overspread Bihar, it subsided leaving Mithila with Hindu kings still holding courts, where poetry and learning were alone honoured. In this country with principalities apparently undisturbed by internal troubles and heedless of external convulsions, with courts devoted to culture and learning, where poets and philosophers lived in honour and affluence, our first impulse is to look for traces of superior mental development in the mind of the people at large, at least for some grains of enlightenment fallen from the overflowing store of their masters. But the search is in vain, and it is a deplorable reflection on the Hindu social system that in Mithila, where it reached a high degree of development, its influences on the material and moral condition of the people at large were in the direction, not of amelioration, but of degradation. The priestly and the intellectual aristocracy was so predominant that it set itself to suppress any attempt at social and mental emancipation outside its pale; and it was able to attain its object so effectually that at the present day it is in this same ancient centre of learning that ignorant fanaticism is most rampant and religious susceptibilities most inflammable, that the state of the lower classes is most degraded and most depressed and that the proportion of the illiterate is the greatest" (*Vide*

Muzaffarpur Survey and Settlement Report by C. J. Stevenson-Moore, I.C.S.). The observations made were no doubt true at that time but times have changed now and with the growth of western education the old concept is fast changing. The town of Darbhanga has acquired immense cultural importance with the opening of a number of Colleges (Arts, Science and Commerce), the Mithila Research Institute and the Kameswar Singh Sanskrit University.

APPENDIX I

Some Important Inscriptions

(*i*) *The Panchobh Copper Plate Samgramgupta.*—The copper plate was discovered in course of ploughing the field for cultivation in village Panchobh (Laheriasarai) about fifty years ago. This is a very important record discovered from the district. It records the grant of a village Vanigama, situated in the district of Jambubani by Paramabhattaraka Maharajadhiraj Parameswara Mahamandalika Samgramagupta who is described as the lord of Jaipur and the most devout worshipper of Maheswar. The donnee is Kumarswamin, a Brahmin of Sandilyagotra who hailed from Kolancha. Mr. R.D. Banerji thinks that these local rulers assumed independence after the fall of the Senas. The question of the identification of the place names in these inscriptions is not yet settled. It is evident that Mithila in the 12th century A.D. was under the Karnatas. Mr. Banerji's assumption that the local Sena rulers assumed independence does not seem to be convincing. The donnee was granted land in Tirabhukti. How is it possible that a ruler of Jambubani could grant land in Mithila when the Karnatas were ruling ? The high sounding titles suggest that Samgramagupta was a powerful feudal baron and held some very important office in the Jayanagar area of the Madhubani subdivision. Vanigama must have been the name of a village nearby (For details—*See* R. K. Choudhary—*Inscriptions of Bihar*).

(*ii*) *The Andhrathadhi Inscription of Sridharadas.*—This inscription refers to Nanyadeva, the founder of the Karnat Dynasty of Mithila. It is inscribed at the pedestal of Kamladitya in the village of Andhrathadhi (Jhanjharpur). Nanyadeva is described here as a victor and is said to have turned the world into a second *Kshirasagar*. This and the Matiahi *Stone Inscription* refer to the existence of Visnu worship There is another inscription at the same place with the legend *Magaradhwaja Yogi* 700.

(*iii*) *The Bheetbhagwanpur Inscription.*—(Near Tamuria Station) refers to Malladeva, son of Nanyadeva. The site is extremely rich in archaeological finds but no attempt has been made to explore it.

(*iv*) *The Tilkeswar Temple Inscription.*—Refers to the name Karmaditya, a minister of the Karnat king.

(*v*) Besides the ***Matiahi Stone Inscription***, the ***Ladaho Inscription*** also refers to the Visnu worship.

(*vi*) *The Bhagirathpur Inscription of Kamsanarayana* (near Pandoul) throws an interesting light on the history of the last two Oinwaras.

(*vii*) The Bideswara Temple Inscription of Raghavasimha.

APPENDIX II *

Some Historical Places of Darbhanga

(*i*) *Ahiari.*—It is traditionally known as the seat of sage Gotama and mythical Ahalya.

(*ii*) *Asurgarh.*—It is a very ancient site in the district and was first brought to light by Krishnan, I.C.S. who collected few punch-marked coins from this site.

(*iii*) *Bishphi.*—Bishphi is the birth place of the famous poet Vidyapati.

(*iv*) *Basudevapur.*—A village ten miles east of Madhubani is an important centre of the old Rajput kingdoms of Bhara and Gandha. The Gandhwariya Rajputs of the district are associated with this place.

(*v*) *Bhaura.* —It is an old site of Mithila.

(*vi*) *Balirajagarh.*—It is an important archaeological site of the district, yet unexplored. It is known as the Garh of Raja Bali. The rampart is still in tact and the whole area is dotted with mounds.

(*vii*) *Bheetbhgawanpur.*—It is associated with the capital of Malladeva and is the storehouse of uncared images of immense antiquarian importance. Some of the pieces are rare specimen of plastic art.

(*viii*) *Bahera.* –It is full of ancient mounds. Recent Excavations by Dr. Brajkishore Varma have brought to light many interesting antiquities, the most important being the structure of a temple (*See* R. K. Choudhury—*Report on Bahera Excavations* in the Journal of the Bihar Research Society, 1958).

(*ix*) *Bhagirathpur.*—Inscription of Kamsanarayan was discovered in 1954.

(*x*) *Boram Dih.*—It is an ancient site associated with Buddhism.

(*xi*) *Dekuli.*—It is said to be headquarters of Raja Devasimha, near Laheriasarai. There is a big Siva temple.

(*xii*) *Girijasthan.*—It is associated with Sita. It is in village Phulahar.

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* Now under excavation by the Archaeological Survey of India (1963.)

(*xiii*) ***Hati***.—It is an important centre of Kirtaniya actors and is associated with old tales and traditions.

(*xiv*) *Jarahattiya*.—(Near Tarsarai station) has the famous tank of the Yajna held in the 14th Century A. D. Here 1,400 Maithila Mimamsakas alone were present in the reign of Bhairavasimhadeva of the Oinwara dynasty.

(*xv*) Jayanagar is the terminus of the N.E. Railway in the district. Remains of the old fort said to have been built by Alauddin Hussain Shah of Bengal extending from Kamrup to Betiah to resist the inroads of hill tribes are still seen.

(*xvi*) Karion near Rusera is associated with the famous logician Udayanacharya. Small-scale excavations were undertaken here a few years ago.

(*xvii*) Kapileswarasthan is said to have been founded by Kapil, founder of the Samkhya philosophy. Karaur is also associated with this very philosopher.

(*xviii*) Mangrauni is said to be birth place Gangesa, founder of Navyanyay.

(*xix*) Pandaul is associated with the Pandavas.

(*xx*) Sarisava is an important centre of traditional learning.

(*xxi*) Saurath a place where annual marriage meetings take place. It is also an important historical site and was once explored by interested persons (ASR—XVI.94). There is a frequent mention in the Bengal records of the humiliations that the British officers had to face and the early British administrators have severely criticised the attitude of some prominent Maithila Brahmanas Only recently Sri Adita Nath Jha of the State Archives has published in Maithili an account of the Sauratha Sabha based on the Bengal records (*Vide*—Mithila Mihira—Patna, 1962).

(*xxii*) Uochaitha is famous for a temple of Kali. The people of Darbhanga associate this place with the famous Sanskritist Kalidas of the Gupta age.

(*xxiii*) Mangalgarh associated with the Gupta period.

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CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

Growth of Population

Mr. J. H. Kerr in his report on the Final Survey Settlement Operations in Darbhanga District (1896—1903) mentions that at the time of Permanent Settlement in 1793 the population of the district of Tirhut comprising the present districts of Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga was found to be 1,844,301 persons. An estimate was made in connection with the enquiries to assess the revenue paying and revenue free lands. During 1802, Kerr mentions, the Collector estimated the population to be two million souls but the estimate of the Revenue Surveyor in 1846 was that there were only 1,637,545 persons. Different estimates of the population during the next quarter of a century were made with figures fluctuating from 1,809,000 to 1,500,000 persons.

All these estimates were rather imperfect and different criteria had been adopted. For example a rough estimate of the number of houses was taken and an average number of persons was taken to be residing at each household.

The first census on more correct methods was held in 1872 which returned a total population of 4,384,706 persons giving a density of 691 persons per square mile. Darbhanga became a separate district in 1875 and the first approximately correct population of the district of Darbhanga was ascertained. According to statistics prepared for Darbhanga separately, it appears that the population of the district in 1872 was estimated at 2,136,898 persons.*

*(Darbhanga District Gazetteer, Calcutta, 1907, page 23, L.S.S. O' Malley.

The Imperial Gazetteer of India, Vol. XI, page 154)

From 1881 to 1901 there was a steady rise in the population. The figures were 2,630,496 souls in 1881, 2,801,955 in 1891 and 2,912,611 in 1901. The variations in population from 1901 to 1951 was found to be as follows:—*

Census Year		Persons	Variation	Net variation 1901—1951	Males	Variation	Females	Variation
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1901	..	2,912,611	..	..	1,416,474	..	1,496,137	..
1911	..	2,929,682	+17,071	..	1,412,669	—3,805	1,517,013	+20,876
1921	..	2,913,529	—16,153	..	1,420,719	+8,050	1,492,810	—24,203
1931	..	3,166,094	+252,565	..	1,570,959	+150,240	1,595,135	+102,325
1941	..	3,457,070	+290,976	..	1,698,060	+127,101	1,759,010	+163,875
†1951	..	3,769,534	+312,464	+856,923	1,844,201	+146,141	1,925,333	+1,66,323
**1961	..	4,413,027	+643,493	+1,500,416	2,142,880	+298,679	2,270,147	+344,814

*District Census Handbook of Darbhanga (1951), published in 1955, p. 3.

†The detailed figures of 1961 Census have not yet been published (December, 1962). From the Superintendent of Census Operations, Bihar. the following details of 1961 Census have been gathered:—

Area—3,345 square miles; population 4,413.027, (16.98 per cent increase) density per square mile, 1314; sex-ratio, 1059; literacy, 16.8 per cent (males 28.4 per cent females 5.8 per cent). These figures were received only when the texts were being sent to the Press. The discussions were based on the provisional figures which do not substantially differ. (P.C.R.C)

**Census of India, 1961—Final population totals, pp. 332-323.

The growth of population, 1881—1951 has been discussed in the District Census Handbook of Darbhanga (1951) which is as follows:—

"Darbhanga had its first census as a separate district in 1881. When census was taken in the year 1872, it was still included in the parent district of Tirhut. The population has been rising steadily since 1921. It also increased from 1881 till 1911 but at a slower pace, and there was actually a fall in the decade 1911—20. During the thirty-year period from 1921 to 1950, the net increase has been 8.56 lakhs or roughly 29 per cent over the 1921 total. It was only 1.12 lakhs or less than 4 per cent in the thirty-year period just preceding. The trend before 1921 is attributable mainly to general unhealthiness, failures of crops and adverse balance of migration. In the decade 1881—90, public health was not as good as it is now but otherwise the period was one of prosperity and the 1891 census registered an increase of 6.5 per cent in the population over the 1881 figure. Crops failed in 1891 over large parts. A partial failure in 1895 and an almost wholesale failure in 1896 resulted in a severe famine in 1897. Other years were fairly good except in the matter of public health which was bad in 1892, 1894 and 1896 when deaths outnumbered births. The year 1900 was also not healthy and towards the end plague appeared in some portions although the effects thereof were not felt at the census of 1901. The population increased by 3.9 per cent in 1891—1900 decade, the highest recorded among the districts of North and South Bihar in that period. Obviously, it was so because the plague epidemic was less severe here. The following decade (1901—10) started rather badly with plague in many parts. This, however, subsided quickly and public health in the remaining years was fairly satisfactory. Economically the district was prosperous during the first half of the decade but untimely rains and floods in 1906 to 1909 caused severe distress and famine had to be declared in 1906-07 as well as in 1907-08. Emigration was accelerated and the next Census in 1911 registered an increase of only 0.6 per cent in the population. The next decade (1911—20) was the worst both in point of harvests as well as of public health. Crops were unsatisfactory in 1914, 1915, 1916, 1918 and 1920, and there was acute distress on several occasions. The distress in 1915 was further accentuated by epidemics of cholera and malaria. Then came the great influenza epidemic of 1918 which was preceded by a virulent type of cholera. The population actually recorded a fall by 0.6 per cent

at the 1921 Census. The decrease would have been higher still but the balance of migration was less adverse than in 1911. The year 1921 marked the turning point and the decade that followed was fairly prosperous. Although plague caused havoc in 1922-23, harvests were more or less completely destroyed in 1924 and Malaria and other fevers took their toll in 1930, the other years were singularly prosperous and at the 1931 Census, the population registered an increase of 8.7 per cent over the 1921 total. The following decade (1931—40) was more prosperous although there were short crops in 1931, 1936, 1937 and 1938 and the population increased by 9.2 per cent. But for a more adverse balance of migration, the increase would have been sharper still. In the last decade (1941—50), the years 1941, 1944, 1945 and 1946 were unhealthy but conditions in the remaining years were helpful and an increase of 9 per cent has been registered at the 1951 Census.* The year 1921 was significant for this district in another way also. Till then, the rate of growth of population in the northernmost Madhubani subdivision was very much higher than in the southernmost subdivision of Samastipur. The trend was arrested in 1921, and since 1931, the reverse is noticeable. The Sadar subdivision has always occupied the middle position. Till the middle of the last century, the Madhubani subdivision which is contiguous to Nepal, was still an unopened country and with the extension of cultivation, immigration from other parts of the district went on apace. A point has now been reached when the land is unable to sustain further increase in the population and with no further scope for extension in the north, the rich areas of the Samastipur subdivision are more attractive. The havoc caused by the Kosi floods in the eastern thanas, has no doubt accentuated the low rate of increase in the Madhubani subdivision."

In 1961 the provisional population was found to be 4,422,363 which showed a variation of +652,829 from 1951 figure and a net variation of +1,509,752 from 1901 figure. The break up figure for 1961 population was males 2,150,081 and females 2,272,282 variations of +305,880 and +346,049 respectively from 1951 Census.†

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*Darbhanga occupied the first rank in the districts of Bihar in population, though only eleventh in extent. Only 2 districts in India have had a larger population than Darbhanga, Malabar (4.76 millions) in Madras and 24 Parganas (4.6 millions in West Bengal.

†The final total population figure of 1961 Census was published after the text had been compiled. This population has been quoted before. The provisional population has been slashed down to some extent (P.C.R.C.).

The 1961 Census figures indicate an increase of 17.32 over the 1951 figures. This increase has been well spread over the three subdivisions as follows :—

Subdivision.	1951	1961	Variation
Sadar	1,078,089	1,250,101	+172,012
Madhubani ..	1,361,699	1,602,906	+241,207
Samastipur ..	1,329,746	1,569,356	+239,610

It will thus be seen from the observation quoted above that a point has now been reached when the land is unable to sustain further increase in the population is rather wide of the mark. The low rate of increase in the Madhubani subdivision has been fully recouped as the population figures of the thanas mentioned elsewhere will indicate.

POPULATION ACCORDING TO SUBDIVISIONS AND REVENUE THANAS.

The district has three subdivisions, *viz*., Madhubani, Sadar and Samastipur. The Madhubani subdivision has four, Sadar Subdivision two and Samastipur subdivision four revenue thanas. Each revenue thana has been divided into several police-stations except Warisnagar (revenue thana and police-station). The following table will show the subdivisionwise and revenue thanawise population of 1951 and 1961 Censuses —

POPULATION

Subdivision/Revenue Thana	1951*			1961*		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
MADHUBANI SUBDIVISION	1,361,699	650,900	701,799	1,602,906	779,344	823,562
Benipatti Revenue Thana	314,021	149,772	164,249	365,162	173,206	191,956
Khajauli ,, ...	336,586	163,022	173,564	379,243	166,176	193,067
Madhubani ,, ...	372,054	181,243	190,811	444,756	216,666	228,070
Phulparas ,, ...	339,038	165,863	173,175	413,745	203,276	210,469
SADAR SUBDIVISION	1,078,089	522,048	556,041	1,250,101	599,324	650,777
Darbhanga Revenue Thana	604,797	393,535	311,262	682,596	329,861	355,735
Bahera ,, ...	473,292	228,513	244,779	567,505	272,463	295,042
SAMASTIPUR SUBDIVISION . ..	1,329,746	662,253	667,493	1,569,356	771,413	797,943
Samastipur Revenue Thana	412,343	204,162	208,181	493,692	243,379	250,313
Rusera ,, ...	362,735	183,648	179,087	432,879	215,739	217,140
Warisnagar ,, ...	223,026	112,386	110,640	260,886	128,010	132,876
Dalsingh Sarai ,, ...	331,642	162,057	169,585	381,899	184,285	197,614

*District Census Handbook of Darbhanga (1951), p.142.

**Provisional figures taken from the Supdt., Census Operations, Bihar.

DENSITY OF POPULATION

Regarding the density of population the last District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907), by L.S.S. O'Malley, on page 25, mentions as follows:—

> "Although exceeded by the figures for a few individual districts, such as Howrah and Dacca, the portion of North Bihar which comprises the three districts of Saran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga has a more teeming population than any other tract of equal size in Bengal or Eastern Bengal. Of these three districts Muzaffarpur is the most and Darbhanga the least densely populated, but the pressure on the soil even here is as great as 870 to the square mile. Lying between Muzaffarpur and Bhagalpur, it partakes, in the west, of the character of the latter district. In only one of the western thanas does the density of population fall below 900, and in none of the eastern thanas does it reach 800 per square mile. The Samastipur subdivision with 967 to the square mile is the most thickly crowded part of the district. It is eminently rural tract, dependent almost entirely on agriculture; and the pressure of the agricultural population on the soil is already so great that further expansion under present conditions is neither to be expected nor desired. As moreover, it includes about 40 square miles of *diara*, which is practically uninhabited and mainly uncultivated, the pressure of population on the inhabited and productive area cannot be put at less than 1,000 per square mile. There is no very marked difference between the conditions of Madhubani and the headquarters subdivision so far as the strictly rural areas are concerned; and as the indications are that during the last decade the latter approached very near the limit of population which the soil is capable of supporting, it cannot be expected that Madhubani will show any considerable further increase at the next census. These two subdivisions are mainly rice-producing tracts, and they cannot hope to support so large a population as Samastipur, where the rich uplands produce more valuable crops. It may, therefore, be said of the district as a whole that, under present conditions and in the absence of some economic revolution, there is little room for further increase of population."

The density of population of the district has varied from one census to another. From 1931 Census there has been a steady rise in the density

excepting a slight decline in 1921 which appears to be due to the epidemics including influenza and other natural causes. The rise since 1931 is due to proportionate rise in population of the district.

The density of the district and that of the State since 1901 is shown below :—

Name of the State and district	Density						
	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961
Bihar ..	407	423	418	466	521	575	691
Darbhanga ..	870	875	870	946	1,033	1,127	1,319

Distribution of Rural and Urban Population

The total population of the district of Darbhanga since 1901 with its break-up figures for urban and rural population is as follows:—

Census year.	Total population	Population		Percentage	
		Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1	2	3	4	5	6
1901 ..	2,912,611	103,392	2,809,219	3.7	96.3
1911 ..	2,929,682	96,519	2,833,163	3.7	96.3
1921 ..	2,913,529	52,599	2,820,930	3.6	96.4
1931 ..	3,166,094	104,823	3,051,271	3.7	96.3
1941 ..	3,457,070	122,259	3,334,811	3.6	96.4
1951 ..	3,769,534	160,091	3,609.443	4.2	95.8
*1961 ..	4,422,363	191,858	4,230,505	4.4	95.6

*According to finalised 1961 Census figures received just when texts are being sent to the Press. Darbhanga has 6 towns and the percentage of urban group is 4.32. Detailed figures are not yet published. (December, 1962). The discussions in the text are based on provisional figures supplied by the Census Superintendent which are said to be approximately the same as the finalised figures (P.C.R.C.).

The above statistics indicate that the district lives in the villages and the pattern of rural economy will continue for a long time to come. It is only since 1941 that we find more of a shift to the towns.

In 1901 the district had four towns, viz., Darbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur and Rusera. In 1961 there are six towns. It has to be mentioned here that the concept of a town till 1951 was the population of 5,000 persons and above. In 1961 a different criteria has been fixed, i.e., only place with the population of more than 5,000 persons, the density of more than 1,000 persons per square mile and if at least 75 per cent of adult male population engaged in non-agricultural occupations, fulfil the condition of being a town. According to this criteria, Mow, which had a total population of 5,695 persons in 1951 and was treated as a town for the first time in 1941 was left as such and no new town came in. A city in census means a place with one lakh and above population. According to this criteria Darbhanga has become a city in 1961.

The table given below gives the list of all towns in the district with the population figures from 1901 to 1961 :—

Town	Persons	Variation	Net variation 1901—1951	Males	Variation	Females	Variation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
DARBHANGA—							
1901	66,244	.	.	32,907	..	33,337	..
1911	62,628	—3,616	..	31,274	—1,633	31,354	—1,933
1921	53,700	—8,928	..	27,024	—4,250	26,676	—4,678
1931	60,676	+6,976	..	32,274	+5,250	28,402	+1,726
1941	69,203	+8,527	..	37,537	+5,263	31,666	+3,264
1951	84,816	+15,613	+18,572	44,348	+6,811	40,468	+8,802
1961	103,106	+18,290	+36,862	55,192	+10,844	47,914	+7,446
MADHUBANI—							
1901	17,802	..	..	9,137	..	8,665	..
1911	16,500	—1,302	..	8,532	—605	7,968	—697
1921	16,582	+82	..	8,713	+181	7,860	—99
1931	18,789	+2,207	..	9,946	+1,233	8,843	+974
1941	20,272	+1,483	..	10,568	+622	9,704	+861
1951	23,283	+3,011	+5,481	12,030	+1,462	11,253	+1,549

1961	..	..	2[illegible],233	+[illegible]	+10,43[illegible]	11,906	+2,[illegible]76	13,327	+2,074
SAMASTIPUR—									
1901	..	.	9,101	..	..	5,245		3,356	..
1911	..	..	9,165	+67	..	5,318	+73	3,850	—6
1921	..	..	8,017	—1,151	..	4,675	—643	3,342	—508
1931	..	..	9,891	+1,874	..	6,101	+1,426	3,790	+448
1941	..	..	13,293	+3,402	..	8,185	+2,084	5,108	+1,318
1951	..	..	19,366	+6,073	+10,265	11,315	+3,130	8,051	+2,943
1961	.	..	25,736	+6,370	+16,635	15,292	+4,977	10,444	+2,393
RUSERA—									
1901	..	..	10,245	..	..	4,893	..	5,352	..
1911	..	..	8,223	—2,022	..	3,953	—940	4,270	—1,082
1921	..	..	8,187	—36	..	4,078	+125	4,109	—161
1931	..	..	8,869	+682	..	4,533	+455	4,336	+227
1941	..	..	10,154	+1,285	..	5,255	+722	4,899	+563
1951	..	..	12,067	+1,913	+1,822	6,049	+749	6,018	+1,119
1961	..	..	14,341	+2,274	+4,096	7,385	+1,336	6,959	+941
DALSINGSARAI—									
1951	..	..	7,853	..	..	4,035	..	3,818	..
1961	..	..	12,540	+4,687	+4,687	6,466	+1,431	6,074	+2,256
JAINAGAR—									
1921	..	..	6,113	..	..	3,399	..	2,714	..

Town	Persons	Variation	Net variation 1901—1951	Males	Variation	Females	Variation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1931	6,598	+485	..	3,788	+389	2,810	+96
1941	4,337	—2,261	..	2,596	—1,192	1,741	—1,069
1951	7,011	+2,674	+898	4,103	+1,507	2,908	+1,167
1961	7,902	+891	+1,789	4,272	+170	3,629	+721
Mow—							
1941	5,000	..	..	2,467	..	2,533	..
1951	5,695	+695	..	2.787	+320	2,908	+375

The reasons for the increase in urban population are quite a few. There has been a somewhat drift of the population towards the town. This is partially due to abolition of zamindari which has made the members of the ex-landlords to take the business or other pursuits and they are not keen to live in village shorn of their prestige.

The opening of communications which has been a marked feature of Darbhanga district has led to a bigger turnover of trade and commerce especially at the markets of Dalsingsarai, Rusera, etc., which are concentrated in the towns. As centres of trade and commerce, towns are developing and more townships are on the way.

There has been a concentration of more and more Government offices in some of the towns which has also led to an increase in urban population. The opening of some of Community Development Block offices in urban areas has added to urban population. The development of communications has also made the population easy to mobilise and the towns are easier of access which is an incentive to settle in towns but keeping up a contact with the village homes.

The incidence of urbanisation is highest in Darbhanga town followed by Samastipur, Rusera and Madhubani. The reasons are quite obvious.

The population of Darbhanga town with its suburb Laheriasarai has been rising steadily since 1921. It has the usual District and Subdivisional Offices. A Medical College and some Degree Colleges have come into existence within the last two decades. It is also the headquarters of the Darbhanga Raj which is now vested in the State since the inception of Zamindari Abolition Act (1952).

It is connected by rail with Birganj, the gate of Nepal, on the west, Madhubani on the north-east, Nirmali on the east and Samastipur on the south. The population of Madhubani town has been rising steadily but slowly since 1921 It is on the North Eastern Railway Branch line from Darbhanga and has trade connection with Nepal. It is also the headquarters of the subdivision bearing the same name.

The population of Samastipur town has been rising steadily since 1931. Samastipur is the headquarters of a Railway Division and of the subdivision bearing the same name. It is an important junction of the North Eastern Railway and also has a railway workshop. There has been an enormous expansion of Samastipur as the headquarters of a Railway division.

Rusera was at one time the most important trading centre in the south of the district carrying on trade on the Baghmati and

the Burhi Gandak. With the development of the railways, river borne trade has declined. But the roadways have more than made it up. The population of Rusera has been rising since 1931 as is evident from the population figures described earlier. Rusera has one of the oldest municipalities in the State.

Jainagar has been treated as a town since 1921. It is the terminus of the North-Eastern Railway branch line from Darbhanga and is very close to Nepal border. Trade with Nepal is the main activity here.

It will be seen that Dalsingsarai which came to be classified as a town only in 1951 with a population of 7,853 recorded a population of 12,540 in 1961 census. There has been a very remarkable expansion of trade and commerce in this town which is now on the broad gauge section from Samastipur to Barauni. With the rapid urbanisation of Barauni as an industrial centre, Dalsingsarai has also a parallel urbanisation.

From the figures it will be seen that the subdivisional town of Madhubani has not had any remarkable increase in population. The variations since 1901 is only 10,431 and this compared with Dalsingsarai or Rusera will indicate that the two latter places are getting much more importance than Madhubani which is the subdivisional headquarters of the subdivision of same name. The low incidence of increase of the population at Madhubani is due to the fact that there are hardly any sizeable industries. It is in the centre of a rice producing area and although nearer to Nepal border the trade and commerce from Nepal side nearly pass through Madhubani but Madhubani does not handle much of them.

From a study of the figures of rural population in 1951 and 1961, it is found that irrespective of the area of the thana the incidence of population is very high in the following thanas :—

Name of the thanas			Population	
			1951	1961
Darbhanga	..	..	432,239	481,532
Bahera	..	..	307,295	364,983
Madhubani	..	..	266,540	320,151
Samastipur	..	..	264,973	312,628
Rusera	..	..	234,198	274,789
Warisnagar	..	..	223,026	260,886
Dalsingsarai	..	..	212,300	237,686
Benipatti	..	..	211,275	246,300
Biraul	..	..	165,997	202,522
Khajauli	..	..	162,783	182,290
Tajpur	..	..	147,370	181,064

Name of the thanas			Population	
			1951	1961
Phulparas	..	..	139,921	206,299
Singia	..	..	128,537	158,090
Mohiuddinagar	..	..	119,342	144,213
Jaynagar	..	..	120,370	137,047
Jhanjharpur	..	..	105,514	124,605

The incidence of rural population is thinner in the following thanas :—

Name of the thanas			Population	
			1951	1961
Laukaha	..	..	103,005	73,543
Madhepur	..	..	96,112	133,903
Jale	..	..	87,742	97,958
Darbhanga Town	..	..	84,816	102,106
Harlakhi	..	..	59,329	67,415
Ladania	..	..	53,433	59,006
Madhwapur	..	..	43,417	51,447

DISPLACED PERSONS

Some of the displaced Bengalis, Punjabis and Sindhis from East and West Pakistan as a result of the partition of India in 1947 have settled down in Darbhanga district They are mostly in Darbhanga City and Samastipur Town. They started coming to Darbhanga district as early as 1949-50 from different refugee camps in different parts of Bihar.

The total number of families of displaced persons from East Pakistan in the district, according to the official reports is 16, i.e., 47 persons adult and children. They have been accommodated in Chunabhatthi P. L. Camp of Darbhanga. A group of displaced persons from West Pakistan has been stationed at Motinagar Colony, Samastipur. They have been provided with house-building and business loans. They were on their feet quickly through business efforts. But the 16 families of Chunabhatthi P L. Camp are wholly dependent on the Government (1961-62). These 16 families are being provided with cash-dole, medical aid, clothes, discretionary grants, food and several other aids.

The West Pakistan refugees are now well settled but the East Pakistan refugees have not shown that type of enterprise and are allergic to hard work. Correspondence for the transfer of East Pakistan refugees to Bhagalpur refugee camps is going on.

The table below shows the amount of loans advanced to the 16 families of Chunabhatthi P. L. Camp from 1959-60 to 1961-62 :—

Name of the camp.	No. of families.	Years		
		1959-60	1960-61	1961-62
1	2	3	4	5
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Chunabhatthi P.L.Camp, Darbhanga.	16	11,796.32	9,930.60	8,887.00

The total amount which was advanced as loan between 1959-60 and 1961-62 comes to Rs. 30,613.92 only. The total amount spent over the camp inmates for their food, cash-dole, clothes, medical and sanitation, etc., from 1959-60 to 1961-62 was Rs. 29,305.92 nP. only. They have been paid Rs. 1,308.00 nP. only as discretionary grant

The table below shows the amount of loan for business, house-building, etc., to both the refugees of East and West Pakistan :—

—	No. of loanees		Amount of loan	
	Business loan	House building loan	Business loan	House building loan
1	2	3	4	5
			Rs.	Rs.
West Pakistan refugees were granted loans between 1949-50 and 1953-54.	60	107	59,950.00	1,95,130.00
East Pakistan refugees were granted loans between 1950-51 and 1956 57.	45	2	26,700.00	2,500.00

Apart from the dependents on Government these East Pakistan refugees have been also advanced with loans.

The total number of loans comprising of business and house building loans is 214 and the total amount provided for business comes to Rs. 86,650.00 only and for house-building Rs. 1,97,630.00 only.

LANGUAGE

The table below shows the number of persons—males and females—in the district of Darbhanga speaking different languages as mother-tongues gathered in 1951 Census* :—

Languages	Total speakers		
	Persons	Males	Females
Total population	3,769,534	1,844,201	1,925,333
Indo-Aryan languages —			
Hindi	3,765,551	1,842,022	1,923,529
Bengali	2,768	1,160	1,608
Nepali	187	74	113
Marwari	235	197	38
Punjabi	766	740	26
Gujarati	15	7	8
Other Indo-Aryan Languages	2	1	1
Dravidian Languages—			
Telugu	2	..	2
Asiatic Languages foreign to India ..	2	..	2
European languages			
English	6	.	6

Like the previous censuses Urdu had not been enumerated separately and had been clubbed together with Hindi. Though Urdu has a separate entity but for the facilities of the interested persons in the language, the census in 1951 had given the number of Urdu speaking people as 317,719**.

Hindi has been shown to be the principal language of the district. Maithili speaking people have also been put under Hindi speaking section. This has been done in 1961 Census also the figures of which are still being finalised (1962 April).

According to the census of 1951, Hindi speaking people were about 90 per cent of the total population. Hindi has now been adopted as the National Language of India and because of this, it is spreading among the non-Hindi speakers as well

The Bengali population is mostly permanent resident in the district and there are many Bengali families who have lived in the district for a few generations. The European planters depended

*District Census Handbook of Darbhanga, 1951, p. 111.

** *Ibid.*

mostly on Bengali assistants who were inducted from Bengal. There are a Bengali Tola, a Kathalbari *mohalla* in Darbhanga full of Bengalis and there has been a remarkable contribution of the Bengalis of Darbhanga to the cultural flow in the district in spite of their small number. There have been some Bengali literary men in different fields from Darbhanga district. The Darbhanga Raj liberally appointed Bengalis and Europeans. The late Sri Priya Nath Bose as a lad of 20 years came to Darbhanga by boat in 1872 as there were no railways. He was given an employment on Rs. 15 per month and rose to be the General Manager of Raj Darbhanga. Another Assistant General Manager was late Sri Chandra Shekhar Bose whose son the late Sri Rajshekhar Bose has made himself immortal in Bengali literature by his humorous writings and "*Chalantika*", a Bengali dictionary. Rajshekhar was born in Darbhanga.

In contrast to the Bengalis who have made Darbhanga their home and have practically cut off their connections with Bengal, the Marwaris, the Gujratis, the Punjabis (excepting the settled displaced ones) have been in the district for business purposes and have active touch with their original districts. The small Nepali population is mostly migratory although a few families have permanently settled down in the district.

The contribution of Darbhanga district to the literature in Sanskrit, Hindi, Maithili and Urdu has been covered elsewhere. There are still quite a few persons in this district who can freely converse and give impromptu speeches in Sanskrit.

BILINGUALISM

The table given below shows the bilingualism in the district, i.e., it gives the number of persons who commonly use another Indian language in their everyday life in addition to their mother-tongue*:—

Mother tongue	Total speakers	Total persons returned as speaking a language subsidiary to that shown in column 1	Subsidiary languages	
Hindi	3,765,561	1,483	Bengali ..	1,284
			Punjabi ..	137
			Marwari ..	68
			Rajasthani ..	17
			Oriya ..	13
			Nepali ..	13
			Marathi ..	1
Bengali	2,768	1,081	Hindi ..	1,081
Nepali	766	618	Hindi ..	618
Marwari	235	95	Hindi ..	92
			Bengali ..	3
Punjabi	187	10	Hindi ..	10

* District Census Handbook of Darbhanga, 1951, p. 111.

LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

The language spoken in the district of Darbhanga by the majority of the persons, is the indigenous language of Mithila, Mithila-Bhasa or what is now called Maithili.

It may be mentioned that Bihar has three linguistic units, Maithili in the east, Magahi in the south and Bhojpuri in the west. Efforts have been made to bring them into close relationship with Eastern Hindi, Bagheli and Chhattisgarhi and thus classify them all together under what is called the MEDIATE GROUP of modern Indo-Aryan languages, but linguists like the late Dr. Sir G.A. Grierson. Dr. S. K. Chatterjee and Monsieur Jules Block hold that this classification cannot be absolutely correct. All the three Behari languages belong to the same group as Bengali, Assamese and Oriya, and what is known as the EASTERN GROUP of the modern Indo-Aryan languages. Like Bengali, Assamese and Oriya, they are the direct descendants, perhaps the most direct of the descendants, of the old form of speech, known as Magadhi PRAKRITA and have so much in common with them in their inflexional system that it would almost be possible to make one grammar for all of them.

A great proof of the evolution of the three Behari languages along with those of Bengal, Assam and Orissa, from the old Magadhi form of Prakrit speech, through the eastern, called the *Prachya, Apabhramsa* is furnished by the script in which all those languages were written. Mithila has a script of her own, called Tirhuta, which is wonderfully alike Bengali, Oriya and Assamese and the similarity among these scripts is much more remarkable than among these languages. The earliest specimens of Maithil script are found in the inscription of the Mandar Hill (in the district of Bhagalpur) from where it was taken to Vaidyanath Dham where it was noticed by Dr. Rajendra Lal Mitra who got it published in the second number of the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal for the year 1883 on pages 190-191 (Inscription no. 3). This inscription was written during the reign of Aditya Sena of the later Gupta dynasty towards the end of the 7th century A.D. (*vide* footnote 6 on page 81 of the History of Bengal, Vol. I, edited by Dr. R. C. Majumdar). Thousands of manuscripts written in Maithili script are scattered in the different manuscript libraries and in Nepal there are many manuscripts very old, perhaps the oldest known so far. In the Raj Library at Darbhanga there is a complete book of Srimad Bhagavata written by Vidyapati himself in the first quarter of the 15th century. Owing to climatic conditions and want of idea of preservatives, very many old manuscripts have perished. But from those that are available, it appears that Maithili script has retained its main distinctive features. The style of writing may have varied from area to area in different epochs but the script has not changed either in form or shape.

Bengali, Oriya and Assamese, as they are written now, present certain features which differ from Maithili, though these divergences are much fewer than their similarity. We need not enter into any controversy which script is more ancient and whether Maithili is the old script from which all these scripts have evolved in course of the last three or four centuries and that Maithili represents the eastern script of the post Gupta period. It may, however, be mentioned that only half a century ago Vidyapati was believed to be a Bengali and his language the old language of Bengal.

About the origin and growth of this Eastern variety of North Indian script, we have a masterly exposition in "The origin of Bengali Script" by R. D. Banerjee but most unfortunately he completely ignores Maithili or its evolution. He regrets the dearth of records of the 13th and 14th centuries but in Maithili script there is no such dearth and of the early 15th century we have in the handwriting of Vidyapati himself the complete Bhagavata preserved intact. To a very great extent, therefore, an opinion may be hazarded that this book by R. D. Banerjee deals with the origin and development of Maithili script and that up to the 16th century, all these eastern scripts were Maithili in character or at least proto-Maithili. If this opinion is correct then Bengali, Oriya or Assamese developed those divergences from the old forms which are, however, still preserved in Maithili and distinguish them, therefore, from Maithili.

It is very interesting to follow the gradual spread of the Nagari alphabet of the south-west in the regions of the Eastern script which has consequently been displaced. The Eastern script of which Maithili is a direct descendant evolved long before the invasion of North Eastern India by the Nagari alphabet and this has had, therefore, very little influence upon the development of Maithili script. But the Eastern variety has continually been losing ground and its western boundary has gradually been receding eastward. In the 8th century Banaras formed the western boundary of the Eastern script but in the 11th century this western boundary receded eastward and there is very little similarity between the script used in Banaras and that used in Gaya. In the 12th century both the western and the eastern scripts were used in Magadh. After the Mohammadan conquest the western variety gradually spread itself over the whole of Magadh and the use of the eastern variety was confined to Mithila and the regions to the east of it. The use of the Eastern variety, however, lasted in Magadh till the 14th century and it was only in the 15th century that Nagari appears to have completely displaced the Eastern variety in Magadh.

In Mithila, however, the native script has survived up to the present day though it has now been completely displaced for all practical purposes by the Devanagari alphabet. Even when the printing presses were introduced in Devanagari and books were

printed, people in Mithila read them but for writing they still used their Maithili script. This was the state of affairs till about the second half of the 19th century. There are still persons alive who cannot write any other script except Maithili and the first alphabet taught to Maithil boys was Maithili till the early years of this century. But the later introduction of compulsory teaching of Hindi as the vernacular of the Maithil boys in schools and colleges brought in a change and the use of Maithili script started declining. But at the present moment there seems a swing to the use of the script and the Maithili language. It may be mentioned here that the late Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee as Vice-Chancellor had recognised the importance of Maithili language and introduced it in Calcutta University. It seems, however, almost a lost cause and it is too late in the day to try to revive it to the extent that it may be universally used. Types have been made out for printing books in Maithili script but they are not very popular. But it must be said that it has not completely died out and there are persons who still use this script but it has lost the popular support. The script of Maithili is called "Tirhuta" in Mithila.

The tract of Mithila, has an ancient history and almost uninterrupted traditions and she was comparatively unaffected, at least internally, by any large scale foreign domination during the last thousand years or more. In this respect Mithila was better off than the tracts of Magadhi or Awadhi languages.

For a long time after the conquest of Magadh and Bengal, Mithila retained her independence and the first flood of Turki invasion did not pass over her. Barring the episodes of a few Moslem incursions during later times and consequent suppression of native dynasties temporarily for short periods, the normal life in the land was peaceful and happy when the scholars could carry on their literary activities without any hindrance. Pandits of Mithila have been renowned for their Sanskrit learning and beginning as far as the foundation of the Karnata Dynasty in the 11th century, nay even earlier than that, down to the 16th century Mithila had been a prominent seat of learning and thought in eastern India. Students from other parts of Aryavarta specially from Bengal came in large numbers to learn the Sastras here. The cultural bonds with Assam were also prominent. Had the Muhammadan conquest swept away the native dynasties we should not have expected this flourishing state of Sanskrit studies in the land. The Hindu state of Mithila retained its independent status up to the end of the 1[illegible]th century and the cultivation of arts and letters, Sanskrit learning and Maithili literature continued under the benevolent patronage of Brahmana rulers. The vernacular literature was not despised at all and for some centuries it was the literary vernacular language for almost the whole of North Eastern India. Maithili, has an unbroken literary record from the 13th century probably much earlier, down to the present day.

The beginnings of the literature in the language of Mithila, as of all other literatures, can be traced back to popular poetry and what is common to all such cases, it is very difficult to assign any definite date to these early popular compositions. There are, however, three different kinds of poetical compositions available so far which can legitimately be claimed to have been the earliest specimens of Maithili.

Firstly, a number of mystic songs and other poems discovered in Nepal were published in Bengal. These songs are said to have been composed by the *Siddhas* of the Sahajiya sect, which was an offshoot of the *Tantrika* or later *Vajrayana* Buddhism. The collection has, therefore, been called the *Bauddha Gan O Doha*. The language in which these poems are composed is wonderfully archaic but there are characteristics in it which are recognised as Bengali, Assamese and Maithili, on account of which it has been taken as the earliest specimens of each one of these sister languages. Linguists are, however, agreed that these poems were composed when all these modern East Indian languages were still in an early formative stage and had not developed their distinctive features. This language may be taken to be the later form of the Eastern or *Magadhi Apabhramsa* with the influence of Western or *Sauraseni Apabhramsa* discernible at places. Naturally therefore, it contains elements that have come down to one or the other of the modern languages which have grown out of the parent stock, the Eastern or *Prachya Apabhramsa*. A theory may be advanced that in spite of all these Bengali or Assamese peculiarities, the language of this collection is basically, of old Mithila, proto-Maithili, rather than proto-Bengali or proto-Assamese. Maithili language was employed seriously in literature very early. It is for the linguists to say if serious literary efforts in Bengali or in Assamese were made before or after Maithili had already cultivated a rich literaure. The tradition of composing poems in the archaic *Apabhramsa* language continued in Mithila up to the fourteenth century. Vidyapati composed two of his poems *Kirtilata and Kirtipataka* together with many smaller songs in a very much similar *Apabhramsa* language which he calls *Abahattha*. It is said that most of the *Siddhas* who composed these poems were monks of the Vikramshila University within the zone of Maithili culture and language. These *Siddhas* too might have been Maithil by birth. The society that is mirrored forth in these poems is the picture of Maithil society. In one of the songs it is said that the first words what a child begins to learn the alphabet with are "*Siddhirastu*" and in no other region except in Mithila are these words taught to a boy when he begins to learn the alphabet. It is only one of the examples. To determine precisely and conclusively the true nature of this archaic language a more detailed study not only of the forms of the language but also of the contents of these poems is necessary and we leave it to the linguists if this language cannot be taken as proto-Maithili.

Secondly, there are the distichs of Daka. These distichs embody the proverbial wisdom of the land-astrological and agricultural

maxims and comments on life and on things and are popularly known and found all over Aryavarta from Assam to Rajputana. Numerous legends are current about the author of these distichs who is variously called Daka, Ghagha, or Bhaddari and so on, according to the traditions prevailing in different parts of the country and it is very difficult to say if they are all one and the same person. Within recent years, many collections of these distichs have been published but each one of them is based on the distichs known popularly in that region where the collection has been made, and none on any old manuscript. The language of each edition, therefore, is greatly modernised and bears the stamp of the language of that region. Fortunately for Maithili, there have been found many distichs quoted under the name of Daka in some of the old works of astrology by Maithil scholars belonging in some cases to the 14th and the 15th centuries, for example, there is a work Vyavaharadipaka not yet published but preserved in the Darbhanga Raj Library by Harapati, called Mudrahastaka, keeper of the seal, said to have been the son of the great poet, Vidyapati. The language of these quotations is very archaic, similar to the language of the *Bauddha Gan O Doha* and differs widely from what is popularly known and published as of Daka even in Mithila. That scholars of Mithila and Mithila alone should quote these distichs as authority like the views of the great Acharyas bespeaks their Maithil origin as well as their great antiquity. It is, therefore, quite reasonable to hold that Daka was a Maithil and composed his proverbial distichs in the proto-Maithili *Apabhramsa* language. In course of time they became popular all over Aryavarta and transmitted orally from generation to generation got modernised, infected strongly by the languages of the different regions where they spread.

Daka is not, however, the only writer of such popular distichs in the proto-Maithili *Apabhramsa* language though he is perhaps the most celebrated. There are many such distichs from old astrological treatises like Kchapanaka Jatak and Kapalika Jataka quoted as authority by that famous jurist of Mithila Chandeshwara Thakur of the seven Ratnakara fame in his work Krityachintamani [*vide* paper on Daka (in Hindi) by Pandit Jivanand Thakur published in part III of the proceedings of the 13th All-India Oriental Conference, 1946, Nagpur]. None of those Jataka works is available nor the names of their authors are known but like the works of Daka they seem to have been works of popular appeal and, therefore, composed in the popular language. It is, therefore, a conclusive proof of the tradition of employing the popular language of the land for works of popular appeal and this tradition is of such a high antiquity that by the 14th century these old works had attained the celebrity of being quoted as authority by such renowned a scholar as Chandeshwara.

Thirdly, there are the popular ballads and songs, some of them highly literary of such semi-mythological figures and heroes

of olden times, as LORIKA, BEHULA, NAGAS, SALAHESA, and others, which have been known since long, no one knows since how long and though never recorded in black and white have been transmitted orally from generation to generation and listened to with great veneration by the common people whenever recited even now. No one can vouch for the genuineness of the language of these popular ballads which must have got modernised in course of these oral transmissions, nor can their age be determined with any precision, but there is no doubt that they are very very old. This also proves that the tradition of employing Maithili language in works of popular appeal, not only for the purpose of enlightenment but also recreation, has been prevalent in Mithila since the earliest stage of East Indian *Apabhramsa* language which linguists place near about 1000 A.D. if not earlier.

The earliest authentic specimens of Maithili language available so far are preserved in VARNA RATNAKARA of Jyotirishwar Thakur, known as Kavishekhara, of the early 14th century. He was an older contemporary of Chandeshwara and renowned for his poetical talents and two of his Sanskrit works are extent, Panchasayaka, a work on Erotics and Dhurtasamagama, a farce. His work in Maithili which has been found only in fragments is in prose and that is very remarkable because it is probably the earliest prose work in any of the modern languages of Northern India. It is full of descriptions based on the best classical models but there are wonderfully realistic pictures of contemporary society, the manners and customs, beliefs and habits of the people of Mithila. It is not clear why the Kavishekhara wrote these descriptions in Maithili prose but the work seems to have been designed to serve as an encyclopaedia reference book for the poets and bards because this purpose only could have been served by these strings of descriptive epithets heaped up together without any organic unity or logical sequence among them. This suggests that in the early years of the 14th century, the tradition of literary composition in Maithili was well-established, Maithili was developed into a full-fledged medium of poetical expression that could mirror forth the society and that there was the imperative need of a book of reference of this kind for the sake of a growing number of poets and bards for whom alone, it is surmised the work was composed. It is true that the works of these poets anterior to or contemporary of the Kavishekhara are not available but that has to be explained otherwise and we cannot doubt the existence of the poets and the tradition by the very nature, scope, purpose, style and polish of the Varna-Ratnakara as we have it.

This work stands, therefore, as a very important land-mark in the literary tradition of Maithili and it indicates definitely that by the early 14th century Maithili had developed that sweetness, richness, polish and expressiveness which are so very essential for

a language in order that it may reflect the manners and customs, beliefs and habits, dreams and aspirations of the people speaking that language, in order that it may be the medium of expression of a full-fledged popular literature.

During the century following Jyotirishwara about two generations later was born the greatest poet of Mithila, one of the greatest in the whole of Aryavarta whose immortal lyrics have an irresistible appeal for all those who have ears for the sweetness and melody of words and a heart to feel the depth and flow of feelings. Vidyapati, indeed is the sun in the firmament of Maithili literature in the full blaze of whose glory all the lesser lights have almost disappeared. Born in a family noted for scholarship and for the leadership of the land, and bred in the tradition of the best classical Sanskrit poetry, Vidyapati drew inspiration from Jayadeva of Bengal and he modelled his lyrics on the immortal songs of Gitagovinda, full of sweetness and melody, with only this difference that Jayadeva used Sanskrit in his songs but Vidyapati used his own language Maithili. This is obvious from the fact that in the copper plate grant of the village of his birth, Bisafi, by his patron and friend Maharaja Shiva Sinha, he has been designated with only two epithets, "Maharaja Pandita" and "Abhinava-Jayadeva".

Vidyapati was a versatile genius. He has written panegyrics of his patrons Kirti Sinha and Shiva Sinha in the old Abahatta language and these poems possess great historical value. He has written at least one book of moral tales like the Panchatantra and the Hitopadesha but of real men and women called the Test of Man, Purusapariksa. He has written learned treatises on *Dharma*, ritualism, right conduct and law. His treatise on Durgapuja, called Durgabhakti-Tarangini, has been the earliest work on that subject and regarded as authority throughout Bengal, Assam, Orissa and Mithila.

But it is on his Maithili lyric songs that his fame chiefly rests. These songs can be divided into four distinct classes, (1) There are the typically love lyrics, on the lines of Amaru, Govardhana, and host of Sanskrit poets of immortal fame, designed mainly to serve as instruction in the necessary sciences of erotics but miscalled later on as Vaisnava *Padas* because Chaitanya and his followers read into them the delineation of mystic devotion expressed in the language of love, called in Vaisnava literature *Madhura-Rasa*, and therefore, considered them devotional in spirit. They are wonderfully expressive of the finest sentiments, with richness of embellishments, sweetness of diction, full of suggestiveness and admirably perspicuous above all. They combine the excellence of Sanskrit poetry with the ease and simplicity of a popular speech, cast in a melodius tune, which was altogether new and therefore gave a delight which was available to all irrespective of caste

creed or sex. (*ii*) Then, there are the devotional songs in honour of the Goddesses, the Ganga, Visnu, but chiefly Lord Shiva, the last of them being more numerous and composed to be sung in accompaniment with dancing with a *Damaru* in hand, called therefore *Nacharies* which can be heard or seen in any temple of Shiva even at the present day in the morning or evening. They are really devotional in sentiment and do not speak of love in any form. On the contrary the feelings portrayed there are of pathos, wonder, and humour, leading to the sentiment of devotion. In his *Nacharies,* there is a wonderful picture of the common life of a middle class family and naturally therefore they have an appeal which is almost irresistible. These *Nacharies* are mentioned by Abul Fazl in his chapter on "Sangeet" in the "Ain-i-Akbery" as one of the important varieties of *Desce* songs though he confuses *Nacharies* with all the songs of Vidyapati inasmuch as he states that they are on "the violence of the passion of love", which can apply only to Vidyapati's love lyrics. (*iii*) Thirdly, there are the songs which we can call "Occasional" (1) suited for special occasions, *Vyavaharika*, such as social functions like *Vivaha, Upanayana,* etc., and such are his songs called *Yoga, Uchati, Chumaon, Parichhan Lagani, Batagamani,* etc., and (2) also suited for special seasons, *Samayika,* like *Malara, Chaumasa, Barahamasa, Fagu, Chaita, Pavasa, Prabhati,* etc. We have to remember in this connection that in the social life of a Maithil music plays a most important part. There is no function social or religious for which there are not special songs and these songs are sung in their special tunes by the women folk of society in chorus. These occasional songs as we may call them are a part and parcel of the life of every Maithli. Except *Sraddha* or functions connected therewith there is no event in a man's life for which appropriate songs have not been in existence and each function begins with a prayer song to the family goddess called *Gosanuni*. Most of the songs that are still sung in Mithila on these occasions contain the name of Vidyapati in the *Bhanita*. We are not in a position to vouch for their genuineness but we have such songs of Vidyapati available in oldest manuscripts and even if all these songs are not his authentic composition, we can safely state that Vidyapati did compose such songs, that the tradition has been coming down from his time and that it is just possible that in many songs the name of Vidyapati might have been added in ignorance or consciously to give them an air of sanctity as is done in other cases also in the love lyrics and *Nacharies*. And (*iv*) lastly there are the "songs of the riddle", called "*Kutas*". Very little attention has been given to these songs even by such able editors of Vidyapati's songs as Nagendranath Gupta, Khagendranath Mitra, Biman Behari Mazumdar and Subhadra Jha but there are many songs of this class which tax the ingenuity of a reader to arrive at the meaning of the lines which in itself is very trifling and all their excellence lies in the way in which the sense has been couched in a series of epithets

joined together. They are in the true tradition of the *Kutas* of Sanskrit literature and provide a mental exercise to find out the sense. They are more an object of curiosity than literature proper but nonetheless highly interesting.

Jyotiriswar, Umapati and Vidyapati were great dramatists as well. Only recently the dramas of Jyotiriswar and Vidyapati have been published. The period following Vidyapati is marked by its preference for drama and its musical qualities. The tradition of dramatic literature was carried to Assam and Nepal. In Mithila it took the form of Kirtaniya drama and the theme in most cases is the story of Krishna and in some of Shiva and Parvati. Besides the *Parijatharan* of Umapati, *Dhurtasamagam* of Jyotiriswar *Goraksavijaya* and *Manimanjari* of Vidyapati, the following important dramas are known to us:—Lalkavi *Gaurisyamvar*, Ramapati—*Rukminiharan*, Nandipti—*Krishnakelimala*, Gokhulanand —*Amritoday*, Karna Jayanand—*Rukmangadnatak*, Kanharamdas—*Gauriswaryamvar*, Bhanunath—*Prabhavatiharan*, Ratnapani—*Ushaharana*, a natak of the same name has been written by Harshanath, and Manbodh *Krishnajanma*, Munshi Raghunandan Das—*Subhadraharana*. Recently a translation of Jayadeva's *Gitagovinda* in Maithili by a Biabamsiya Kayastha Ratipati Bhagat has been discovered and published by Acharya Parmanand Shastri. The translation of the *Gitagovinda*, referred to above, is a unique musical achievement of the maithili language. The tradition of ballad did not die and we have a graphic description in poetry the battle of Kandarpighat by Lal Kavi of Mangrouni. Nowhere in all these compositions, have the description suffered in lucidity and expressiveness. The language remained stereotyped with practically no inclination to any change. Whereas the dramas conceded to popular taste and demand, some writers used ornate language on the pattern of Sanskrit language. In spite of these two predominant trends, the devotional and secular writings of Magniram, Lakesminath Gossain, Sahebramdas, John Saheb* and others formed a class by themselves. The tradition of epic poems set by Manabodh, was continued with equal vigour by Chanda Jha and Lall Das (authors of Ramayana in Maithili). While Chanda Jha and Lall Das were the two famous poets of the 19th century, Munshi Raghunandan Das formed a golden trio with the above two. The description of the terrible famine of 1881, in poetry, by Faturkavi has been translated into English language by Grierson.

Towards the close of the nineteenth century, the study of the Maithili language received a new impetus at the hands of eminent European scholars like Beames and Grierson. Grierson, like a true scholar, collected a large number of Maithili poems and folklores and published them in his famous *Maithil Chrestomathy* (2 Volumes 1882). That publication inherently brought to light the inherent qualities of Maithili as a language. Pandit Jiwan Jha and Chanda Jha took advantage of the opportunity and began to study

* Johan christian's *bhajans* are sung in churches.

Maithili in right earnest. Chanda Jha translated Vidyapati's *Purusaparikṣa* (later on translated into English by Grierson) into Maithili and appended a very good historical introduction to it in Maithili prose. Soon a new school of thought came to be established. Jiwan Jha and Munshi Raghunandan Das by means of abstraction and personification of virtues had tried to interest the Maithili speakers. The dramas of Jivan Jha, Munshi Raghunandan Das and Kumar Ganganand Singh belong to this category and they thus paved the way for modern dramas in Maithili. The Maithili language has the unique privilege of possessing a *Vyakaran*, entitled *Mithilabhasa Vidyotana* by Kavisekharacharya Badri Nath Jha which can be rightly claimed as the *Abhidhanchintamani* of the Maithili language. Any language could boast of such a publication. His *Ekavaliparinay* and *Radhaparinaya* are the two great epics. Another important living poet of Mithila is Pandit Sitaram Jha of Chaugama. The specimen of modern Maithili prose in its earlier form can be seen through the *Vedantadipika* (by Mm. Ganganath Jha), *Mithilatattvavimarsa* (by Parmeswar Jha) and others.

The twentieth century in general and the period after independence has seen the rise of Maithili language in all its field and both old and new schools of writers are competing for the continuance of their own school. With the introduction of its teaching up to the post graduate standard, the language has of late acquired immense importance. Poetry, drama, criticism, literature, history, geography and technical literature are slowly coming up and in some spheres the language has reached the contemporary standard as compared with other languages. Among the modern writers in the different branches are Achyutanand Datta, Bholalal Das, Surendra Jha "Suman", Kasikant Misra "Madup", Chandranath Misra 'Amara", Kanchinath Jha "Kiran", Isanath Jha, Harimohan Jha, Brajkishore Varma "Manipadma", Baidyanath Misra "Yatri" (well-known in Hindi as Nagarjuna), Sudhansu Sekhar Choudhury (Editor, Mithila Mihir), Yoganand Jha, Kedar Nath Labh, Arsi Prasad Singh (famous Hindi poet), Acharya Parmanand Sastri, Jivach Misra, Sasinath Choudhury, Dineswar Lal Ananda, Upendra Jha Vyas, Radhakrishna Choudhury, Jayakant Misra, Krishnakant Misra, Mm. Dr. Umesh Misra, Kumar Ganganand Singh, Mayanand Misra, Ramanath Jha, Tantranath Jha, Umanath Jha, Upendra Thakur, Narendranath Das, Benode Bihari Varma, Anant Bihari Lal, Indu, Jagdip Narayan Dipak, Baidyanath Das, Jayanarayan Mallick, Pulkit Lal Das, Madhur, Lakshmi Narayan Singh, Dr. Laksman Jha and a host of others. These writers are well-known in their respective branches and have contributed a good deal towards the development of Maithili language in all its branches. Prof. Parmeswara Jha had recently published an account of the prose writers of Maithili in the Mithila Mihir and among the rising scholars are Prof. Buddhidhari Singh, Anand Misra, Ramdeva Jha, Messrs. Bihakar, Ramakar, Ramesh and others It is not possible to give a brief account of all of them. Prof.

Gangenand Singh and Brajkishore Varma have broken a new ground in the realm of modern Maithili prose. The history of Maithili literature by Dr. J.K. Misra in two volumes is a major contribution, though it suffers from the defect of a pioneer work in the field. Dr. Subhadra Jha's *Formation of the Maithili language* (Luzac-London-1958) is a unique contribution to the language of his birth and his edition of *Vidyapati's Padavali* (with English translation of the Nepal MSS) is still the best in the field. The recent publication of the First Volume of Vidyapati's poems by the Bihar Rastrabhasa Parishad, though critically well done, is hopelessly confused in so far as the introduction is concerned. Work on *Vidyapati* by Sarda Chandra Mitra, Nagendra Nath Gupta, Khagendra Mitra and B.B. Majumdar, etc., are valuable and important contributions in the field.* All these publications indicate that the Maithili language is yet a living language of a vast majority of people with all literary possibilities of a bright future. Yatri is a progressive writer both in the field of poetry and prose. Radhakrishna Choudhary's *Sharantidha* (under print), partly published in the Mithila Mihir, has broken a new ground in the field of Maithili prose and is a pointer to a new thought yet untouched by other writers. His two historical dramas (entitled *Nanyadevaka Darbar*, published in Mithila Darsan, and *Rajyabhiseka*, published in the Mithila Mihir) are valued contributions. The All-India Maithili Sahitya Parishad has started publication of the old Maithili Texts from Allahabad and they are being edited by Mm. Umesh Misra and Dr. J.K. Misra. The publication of a voluminous dictionary of the Maithili language from Allahabad is a major contribution. The Vaidehi (monthly organ), published from Darbhanga, Mithila Darsan (monthly) from Calcutta and the occasional publications from different places of India are giving a very good account of themselves. A daily in Maithili "*Swadesha*" was started a few years ago at Darbhanga but languished for want of funds. Same was the case with the literary publication of a very high standard named "*Sahityapatrika*" from Darbhanga. The starting of a weekly "Mithila Mihir" by the efforts of the late Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga has created an opportunity for old and new writers. In recent years Maithili books on various aspects have been written and published. A critical review of the contemporary development of the language goes to show that Maithili language is fast growing and is bound to assume its proper place in the comity of Indian languages in no distant future.

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Ditto Mithila in the age of Vidyapati.
G.A. Grierson—Maithil Chrestomathy.

* Earlier researches were done by Khirod Chandra Ray Chaudhury, Rabindra Nath Tagore, etc., in issues of "Nabyabharat", "Sadhana" and other Bengali reviews.

Religion and Caste.

According to the table in the District Census Handbook of Darbhanga, 1951 (pp. 112-113), the total population of the district is 3,769,534 (males 1,844,201; females 1,925,333). Out of this population Hindus count 3,269,716 (males 1,593,615; females 1,676,101). The Muslims count 499,350 (males 250,321; females 249,029), Christians 263 (males 121; females 142), Sikhs 199 (males 142; females 57), Jains 4 (females 4) and Buddhists 2 (males 2). The figure of Jains (females 4) is clearly inaccurate. The language table shows that there are 263 persons speaking Marwari language and it is well-known that most of the Marwaris are Jains.

The figure of Christians (263) also appears to be an understatement. According to an investigation it was found out that the total population of Christians both Catholic and Protestants is at least 620, i.e., 220 Catholics and 400 Protestants. These Christians include both local natives and persons from outside the State and India. There are two Churches in the vicinity of Sadar Subdivision, i.e.. one at *mohalla* Benta, Laheriasarai and the other at Dighi, close to the Darbhanga railway station. The Church at Benta belongs to the Protestant sect and at Dighi to Roman Catholic sect. The Roman Catholic Church was separated from the control of Samastipur Roman Catholic Church in the year 1960. Besides there are two Churches of both sects at Samastipur. The Christians are mostly confined to the towns of Darbhanga, Laheriasarai and Samastipur.

According to the Census of 1951, the number of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes were as follows:*—

——	Males	Females	Total	Percentage of the total population.
1	2	3	4	5
1. Scheduled Castes	239,538	265,490	505,028	13.4
2. Scheduled Tribes ..	523	460	983	..
3. Backward Classes ..	344,080	351,328	696,008	15.8

The religion of the bulk of members of Scheduled Castes, Tribes and Backward Classes is Hinduism.

The Muslims who form the next largest group after Hindus are scattered all over the district. There is, however, a good sprinkling

*District Census Handbook of Darbhanga, 1951, pp. 116—121.

of Muslims in Darbhanga, Laheriasarai, Samastipur and other towns and in the suburbs of the district headquarters. This is partially due to the fact that Darbhanga was the headquarters of the Muslim rule for decades. There used to be *Chhaunis* (Military colonies) at Darbhanga and other places. When Muslim rule weakened many of these soldiers preferred to stay on and became an indigenous part of Darbhanga population. Their influence could be traced in the names of some of the *mohallas* of Darbhanga city and in the names of some of the villages. The following *mohallas* in Darbhanga-Laheriasarai town have distinctive Muslim place names—Gulobara, Bakerganj, Mirzakhan Tank, Rahamganj, Saidpur, etc. A few villages in P.-S. Darbhanga Sadar have distinctive Muslim names, such as, Abdullapur, Maulaganj, Rasulpur Khurd, Sara Mahamad, Sara Fazil etc. Their representation is strong in P.-S Darbhanga Sadar, Samastipur, while it is very thin in P.-S. Madhubani. This shows that the Muslims settled more round about Darbhanga and Samastipur towns.

It is remarkable that even where there are a few Muslim families, they have small mosques. The Darbhanga Raj and the European Planters also used to employ Muslims particularly for the maintenance of accounts and records. The flourishing days of European Planters had been responsible for a large number of Muslim cooks and bearers. Darbhanga Muslim cooks had a name for their skill in culinary art. Racing and Polo, which were very popular in Darbhanga had brought in generations of Muslim *sawars* (riders) and jockeys.

CASTES

There has been no castewise enumeration in the Census of 1951. Probably this was not done with a view to discourage caste consciousness but the hold of the caste-system on Indian life is so deep that for various academic purposes castewise figures would have been quite interesting particularly because of the impact of the rigours of the caste-system and to trace the trends of changes in occupations which followed castes before. Castes have not become extinct from the district by any means. The traditional division of occupations according to caste has, however, been in the melting pot and untouchability is loosening its hold more by social education than by law. Caste-consciousness is both an evil and a benefit. In political fights, unfortunately caste-consciousness in an ugly form becomes aggressive. This has been noticed in both 1951 and 1962 General Elections. Often caste-consciousness, however, leads to a solidification and attempt to improve the base but such attempts are rare.

The last castewise enumeration was done in 1931 census. In 1941 census owing to war exigency this along with many tables was omitted. As mentioned before, castewise enumeration was deliberately dropped in 1951 census.

The table below quoted from the Census of India, 1931, Vol. VII, pp. 136—139 will give an idea of the castewise population in the district of Darbhanga :—

Names of the Castes	Males	Females	Total
Brahmana	164,487	156,895	321,382
Rajput	48,084	41,268	89,352
Babhan (Bhumihar) ..	25,711	23,354	49,065
Kayastha	20,403	20,193	40,596
Bania	3,664	4,002	7,666
Barhi	22,338	22,075	44,413
Chamar	58,234	63,979	122,213
Dhanuk	70,249	76,961	147,210
Dhobi	12,726	13,072	25,798
Dom	3,467	3,631	7,098
Dosadh	109,967	115,309	225,276
Gwala	202,902	197,410	400,312
Hasam	18,179	19,100	37,279
Halalkhor	2,006	2,278	4,284
Jolaha	33,005	34,328	67,333
Kahar	2,213	1,936	4,149
Kamar	9,543	8,871	18,414
Kandu	15,031	13,462	28,493
Kewat	35,990	41,522	77,512
Koeri	74,404	73,383	147,787
Kumhar	16,600	15,598	32,198
Kurmi	33,281	34,014	67,295
Mali (Malakar)	3,431	3,111	6,542
Mallah	69,712	72,552	142,264
Musahar	47,295	48,866	96,161
Pasi	6,529	6,801	13,330
Tanti (Tatwa)	40,067	43,874	83,941
Teli	45,539	45,908	91,447

A brief discussion on the principal castes will be of interest to show the particular occupational role some of these castes play. Most of the castes used to follow particular professions but the trend is on the decline.

Brahmana.—The hereditary occupation of Brahmanas is priesthood but owing to the changes in the economic trends many of them have now taken to cultivation and service as means of livelihood. Most of them generally employ ploughmen. About one half of the Brahmanas of whom the majority belong to the Maithil section, are found in the Sadar and Madhubani Subdivisions. The incidence of literacy among them is very high. The Brahmanas are very closely knit and have an aristocracy among them even if poor. The Maithil Brahmanas have already been pressing for the recognition of Maithili as a separate language. Some of them have even advocated a Maithili State with Darbhanga as the headquarters. The Maithil Brahmanas, particularly the ladies have very comely features and fine figures although a little on the heavy side.

Rajput.—Rajputs are scattered practically all over the district. Among them the sub-castes are very large such as Udayvanshi, Rajvanshi, Suryavanshi, Chauhan, etc. Some sub-sects consider themselves to be higher than the others. The barrier is now on liquidation and marriages between the sub-sects are taking place. They are mostly land-owners, cultivators, lawyers, doctors, etc. A few of them were petty zamindars. They are very conscious of their origin and affiliations with the Rajputs of other parts of Bihar and beyond the State. The incidence of literacy is high. The Rajputs of Darbhanga have social relationship with Rajputs of other States.

Bhumihar.—Among the Bhumihars of the district, there are a few families who were formerly very rich and owned large zamindaries Those zamindars and other Bhumihars have an exlusively aristocratic bearing. They are hard-working, clever and polished in talk and behaviour. Many of them have taken up professions, like, law, medicine, etc., besides cultivation and business. The ladies have a fine bearing, good figures and comely appearance.

Kayastha.—At one time most of the service-holders were recruited from this community. Kayasthas normally go in for schooling and for generations they have been in the forefront in leading professions. There are only a few Kayasthas who actually till the field by themselves. Most of them would normally employ ploughmen. They do not like this type of manual work. Among the Kayasthas there are sub-sects also and the majority of the Kayasthas of this district belong to the Karana sub-sect. Inter-marriages among the sub-sects are becoming popular. The incidence of literacy among them is very high. The Kayasthas of Darbhanga district have social relationship with the Kayasthas of other States.

Bania.—Banias of different sects are to be found in Darbhanga district, viz., Agarwala, Kasera, Kasodan, Kesarbani, Lohar, Sonar, Suri, Teli and Thathera.

All the said sects are businessmen carrying different kinds of trade. Some of the Agarwalas are very rich and there is a *mohalla* in the town of Darbhanga known as Agarwala *tola*. They generally deal in cloth but some of them are also building and road contractors and doctors, etc. Kaseras and Thatheras are braziers. They sell utensils of different kinds either by holding shops in the towns or villages or by hawking. A few of them have adopted other professions also, like law, medicine, etc. Kasodans deal in spices and hardware business. A few of them are cultivators also. Telis, Suris and Kesarbanis mostly deal in oil, grocery, etc., and a few of them are cultivators also. Sonars make and sell ornaments of both gold and silver. Some of them are very rich. The Agarwals have social relationship with Agarwals of U. P. and other States.

The inter-caste relation is cordial. There is marriage restriction in the sub-sects. Exogamous marriage within the sub-castes is strictly prohibited. There is, however, laxity in this taboo so far as widow marriage is concerned. Polygamy is also prevalent in their society which is allowed only when a wife happens to be barren or suffering from a contagious disease, etc. The incidence of literacy among the Banias of Darbhanga district is not so high.

Koeri and Kurmi.—Koeris and Kurmis are essentially cultivators and as a class are industrious and peaceful. Koeries are hard-working, very quiet, and little given to litigation. Near big towns like Darbhanga, Samastipur, these Koeris grow vegetables for the neighbouring markets and show considerable enterprise. No doubt, Kurmis are also hard-working, good cultivators of the district and both form the backbone of the agricultural economy of the district but Kurmis are more educated and several of them have taken up various types of professions like law, medicine, business, etc. A few of them are quite good contractors also. The incidence of literacy among them is not so high. There is marriage restriction among them. The marriage of a boy or a girl generally takes place in his or her own caste. The inter-caste relation is cordial. Kurmis are getting politically conscious and turning to capture seats in the Legislature.

Ahir.—They are known as Gopes or Gowala also. From the point of numerical strength they outnumber all other castes and are scattered all over the district. They are mostly to be found on the banks of the rivers Kamala, Balan, Burhi Gandak, etc., probably because the excellent grazing lands near the river had attracted them to settle down as at one time their principal occupation was rearing of cattle. The number of Ahir or Gowala

cultivators is quite large and a good percentage are substantial cultivators. They are divided into four different sub-castes, Majraut, Kishnaut, Goria and Kanaujia. The Kishnauts prefer a claim of precedence over others on the tradition that Lord Krishna was born in their sub-caste. The incidence of literacy is not so high but some of them who are educated have taken up other professions also. They are now getting politically conscious and have been organising themselves for their rights. The Ahirs are getting weaned away from their traditional occupation of producing and selling milk and milk-products for which this district was famous once.

Barhi.—This community is evenly distributed all over the district The Barhis are by profession artisans and they generally make agricultural implements for the villagers and are paid in the villages both in cash and kind. The Barhis in the towns have a busy time in making furniture, doors, windows, etc., for new and old constructions. The incidence of literacy among them is not so high.

Dhanuk and Kahar.—Dhanuks and Kahars, both belong to Backward Classes and are largely recruited as personal servants. Both used to be employed as palanquin-bearers but palanquins have become rare now. With the advancement of time and as a result of caste-consciousness they have now adopted various professions. In towns they can be seen pulling rickshaws, employed as poons or *Chaprasis* in Government Departments, car-drivers, etc. Some of them are quite good cultivators and a few of them have gone to big cities like Calcutta and other places for their livelihood. The incidence of literacy among them is not so high. Inter-marriage is common. Their inter-caste relation is cordial.

Dhobi.—They are notified Scheduled Castes under the Constitution. They are to be found in almost all the villages and their number is on increase in the towns. In the towns they have opened laundries. In the rural areas they are paid both in cash and kind but in the urban areas they are paid in cash only. They also earn good income from the customary allowances (*britis*) during the time of funeral, marriage and other social ceremonies. Besides wage earners, they are also agriculturists. Both males and females are wage-earners. The washermen in the urban areas are forming unions or a strong caste-Panchayat and will not wash or iron clothes on particular days. Their caste-Panchayats have a great hold on the members and would often inflict punishment for breaches of their convention. Drinking is their curse. The incidence of literacy among them is very low.

Dom.—They are included in the Scheduled Castes under the Constitution. There are two types of Doms in the district known as Supa and Domsi. They have strong physique and they are capable of hard work. They breed pigs, make bamboowares and also work as labourers. They are much addicted to liquor

but some of them who are conscious have started sending their children to school. With education there can be no doubt that they will be an asset to the district. They are scattered all over the district. The incidence of literacy among them is very low.

Dosadh.—They have been classified as Scheduled Castes under the Constitution. They are scattered throughout the district. They are one of the most useful castes in the district, owing to their value as agricultural labourers. They rear cattle, pigs, etc. Most of them support themselves by labour and cultivation. They have monopolised the post of village *Chowkidars* or village watchmen in the district. Their women supplement the income of the family by working as labourers. In the towns many Dosadhs get employment as cooks or bearers. The incidence of literacy among them is very low. They are now trying to up grade them socially and politically. The incidence of literacy among them is very low.

Hajam or Napit.—They are now included in the Constitution under the Backward Classes and are also known as Nai and Thakur. They are scattered throughout the district. They have the traditional reputation of being shrewd. Their chief profession is shaving and hair-cutting but some are also good cultivators and rear cattle. They used to play a much more important role for bringing about marriages among Hindus and at the actual marriages but with the advancement of time their importance is declining. Their role during the birth and death of a man is still somewhat important. In some of the villages Hajams still practise a rude form of unscientific surgery. Several of them now work in hair-cutting saloons and some of them even own such saloons. Their women supplement the income of the family by nail dressing and anointing the feet of the females of other castes and communities with *Alta* (dye).

In big towns like Darbhanga, Laheriasarai, Samastipur and Madhubani they have a union of their own which has fixed the charges on shaving, hair-cutting, etc. They also do not work on particular days. The incidence of literacy among them appears to be very low but a few of them who are educated have taken up other professions also.

Halalkhor.—They are included in the Constitution under Scheduled Castes. By profession they are scavengers. They rear pigs, hens, etc. They are evenly distributed throughout the district. The incidence of literacy is low. Many of them have been migrating to larger cities for employment and find domestic work or job in the factories.

Kandu.—They are evenly distributed throughout the district. They are the class who prepare parched rice. known as *chura*,

murhi, etc. Another of their occupation is building of mud walls. They are also bricklayers, diggers and thatchers. The incidence of literacy is practically nil.

Kewat and Mallah.—They belong to Backward Classes under the Constitution. They are the boating and fishing, as well as agricultural castes but those engaged in the two former pursuits have a somewhat lower position in the social scale than the agricultural class. They are mostly found on both the sides of the rivers Kamala, Balan, Burhi Gandak, etc. The incidence of literacy among them is very low.

Kumhar.—In almost all the villages and towns this caste is found. They are originally potters and prepare earthenwares, tiles, etc. Some of them are also good cultivators. The incidence of literacy among them is very low.

Mali (*Malakar*).—They have been classified as Backward Classes under the Constitution. Previously they were employed as inoculators but now their importance as such is on the wane. They are gardeners and sell flowers and garlands, etc. They also prepare flower-ornaments (*maur*) during the marriage ceremony. With the decline in the economic incidence their work as *malakars* has had a decline.

Musahar.—They are a notified Scheduled Caste and their number in the district is not insignificant. Essentially most of them are without lands and lead a precarious existence. They keep pigs, hens and cocks. They are very eclectic in their food and relish rats and snails. Attempts are being made to educate them.

Drinking and gambling are their common recreation. Child marriage, widow marriage, and divorce are common among them. They are agricultural labourers and some of them sell *purain ka patta* ((lotus leaf) in the markets which is used in the shops as plate.

Pasi.—They have been included in the Constitution under Scheduled Castes and their chief occupation is the sale of the fermented juice of the *khajur* and *tai* trees. They are physically strong and can work hard. A few of them are agricultural labourers and good cultivators. The incidence of literacy among them is very low. They are scattered throughout the district.

Rabidas.—Usually called Chamars, they are by occupation makers of footwear, cultivators or labourers. They are a notified Scheduled Caste. Still in some villages they have the right to the hides of the dead livestock. In the past they were often suspected of poisoning of cattle. They make and supply shoes, whipthongs, drumheads, etc. The services of the womenfolk (*chamain*) are frequently requisitioned as midwife although they are untrained and follow crude methods. Some of the males are getting employment

in the railways and other places. Hard-working and simple-minded, they are now quite progressive in spite of poor incidence of literacy and if given opportunity they could equal any other community.

Tanti (*Tatwa*).—The *tantis* (Hindu weavers) are in the list of the Backward Classes and they are scattered throughout the district. Essentially weavers, some of them have cultivation also. There has been a great demand for handloom cloth and the Tantis are quite busy. They are now organising themselves into professional guilds. The State Government have taken steps to market their excellent produce both inside and outside the country.

Muslims.—Among the Muslims we find Mughals, Pathans, Sayyeds, Sheikhs and others. Besides these four well-known classes the following sections are also found in the district : Bakkho (nomads), Dhuniya (cotton-carder), Dhobi (washermen), Darzi (tailor), Fakir (beggars), Ansari and Momin (weavers), Kajaratia (wrestlers), Kasai (butcher), Nalband (farrier), Pamaria (singer), Rangrez (dyers) and several others.

Religion.—The main religions of the district are Hinduism and Islam. The details of both the religious groups have been discussed elsewhere.

Besides these two major, there are members of smaller creeds like Arya Samaj, Brahmo Samaj, etc., but the activities are not very prominent now in the district. The followers of these creeds are very few in the district. So far the Kabir Panthis are concerned, they have been discussed elsewhere.

A brief mention of the European Indigo Planters of Darbhanga district has to be made as this community has entirely declined. Throughout the 19th century and till the first two decades of the 20th century there were a large number of indigo factories throughout North Bihar and quite a few of them were located in Darbhanga district. Francis Grand, the first Collector of Tirhut district had introduced more scientific method for the extraction of indigo. A detailed account will be found in the *District Gazetteer of Champaran*. It may, however, be mentioned here that the indigo planters were a hard-working lot and looked after their own interests very carefully. They usually ran indigo factories based on large consolidated farms where they grew their own crops. They had their vats and processed indigo carefully which had a good market abroad. Many of them became Zamindars as well and used to put pressure on the ryots to cultivate indigo whether it would be economic or not. The administration used to come to the help of the indigo planters quite often and agrarian indigo troubles used to be put down rather ruthlessly and usually in favour of the planters. The indigo planters of North Bihar had their own association which was a very powerful body and

their grievances, real or alleged used to be taken up to the highest dignitaries in the administration.

The indigo planters formed the Mounted Volunteers Corps which had rendered services in the disturbances of 1857. The Mounted Volunteers Corps came to be known as Soubah Bihar Mounted Rifles in 1862 and obtained Government sanction for the name. The first uniform was a grey tunic, breeches and boots with a hemlet and red plume. This regiment consisted mostly of the planters, the European assistants and a few European Zamindars or gentlemen-farmers. A large number of the members came from Darbhanga district. In 1884 the designation of the South Bihar Mounted Rifles was changed to the Bihar Light Horse. There used to be a regular Darbhanga troop and for some time there used to be one troop for North Darbhanga and another for South Darbhanga and Monghyr. Some of the earliest planters who were associated with the Bihar Mounted Corps were M.M.Gale (1981), L.J. Crowdy, W.S. Mackenzie, R.R.G. Crookshank (1886), William Fradick Needham (1899) etc. The Bihar Light Horse had faded away on the 14th August 1947.

At one time there used to be an indigo factory and its out-works almost within every 10 miles of Darbhanga district. The planters used to maintain the roads in a fairly good condition so that the carts with the indigo could reach the market place. There used to be frequent social meets where the planters and their wives from various concerns would meet. That was another reason why the roads were kept in good order so that their carriages could move easily. The planters also introduced rubber-tyred bullockcarts, use of better manure, more scientific principles for cultivation, etc., and they were also bankers to their cultivators.

The Dulsing Serai Indigo Factory was built by Mr. Teare in 1794. There were several outworks at Tubra, Gobindpore, Shahpore Kamlah, etc. In 1898 when there was a depression in the indigo market caused by the introduction of the synthetic dye, Coventry, the manager of the Dulsing Serai Factory started agricultural and manuring experiments which were appreciated by the Government and resulted in his appointment to the management of the new Pusa Agricultural College the first stone of which was laid by Lord Curzon in 1905. Coventry arranged for one Mr. Bailey to be sent to Java to study the indigo industry in that country. Mr. Bailey returned with the Java process and Java indigo seed. The Java process was tried in the Dulsing Serai Concern but was not a success. The merits of the Java plant were recognised, but it was difficult to get the seed to germinate owing to the hard husk-shell. Later good results were obtained in 1903 by scarificing the outer coat and the difficulty was overcome. A machine was designed and made by M/s. Arthur Butler and Company of Muzaffarpur to do this processing.

Gongowlia, Doulutpore, Allumpore were smaller factories. A big factory was at Hatti-Ousti originally belonging to the Ganges Indigo Company. Tradition mentions that indigo was carried from this factory on hundreds of donkeys and the Persian wheels were worked by elephants. The indigo factory at Hattowree was built by John Anderson and came to Charles Oman in about 1858. Baghauni and Karian were the offshoots of Hattowree factory. Sir Charles Oman, eminent historian and former conservative member of Parliament was born in this area in 1860. His line was continued at Karian, a small factory through Eldred David Oman, the first cousin of Sir Charles Oman. Charles Oman was noted in improving colour. He had bought Hatipore and Motipur and appears to have started indigo in a small way. Falling into bad health he sold out of indigo and retired to Cheltenham where he died. Karian Kothi was sold out in 1949.

Bowarrah indigo factory was established in 1793 and was a flourishing concern. This factory has been mentioned in Hunter's book as one of the oldest indigo factories in Tirhut. Another old indigo factory was at Hursingporo in Samastipur subdivision the last European planter of which was Mr. Parr, who had turned into a gentleman-farmer and sold the concern and went back to England in 1943. Hursingpore concern and its bungalow were the last remnants of what those planters were. The factories at Illmasnuggur and Jeetwarpore were built by Noel and Company. Dalrymple Hay of Jeetwarpore concern continued as a gentleman-farmer before he sold the concern. Bachour factory was established in 1847 as a part of the Pandaul concern. An old manager is said to have imported English stock into the country and let all the bull calves loose as Brahmini bulls and thus the class of cow and bullock improved.

Some of the indigo concerns were by turn saltpetre factory and sugar concerns. After indigo was given up all of them came to be growing sugarcanes. Khan Mirzapore or Mhow was originally a large saltpetre factory belonging to James Wilson. Some of the other factories were Kurhurri, Kurnowl and Mea Chupra. Mea Chupra was built by Sir W. B. Hudson and the Hon'ble Francis Byng in 1883.

Moktapore factory was originally an outwork of Jeetwarpore. Another outwork built by Arthur Butler and Company as an adjunct to Moktapore was at Kalianpore. M/s. G. Swaine and Lethbridge bought the Ottur concern from M/s. Gillanders Arbuthnot and Company in the seventies. Ottur was in existence at the beginning of 1800. This factory used to build a very attractive *tazia* for the Muslim ryots. Shahpore factory was built in 1790 by Joseph Finch and members of the Finch family had spread to different parts of North Bihar.

Minden Wilson's "History of Behar", "Indigo Factories", "Tirhoot and its inhabitants of the past" and "Reminiscences of

Behar", published in 1908 give an excellent account of these European Planters. It is true that the planters made a good deal of money for themselves but it cannot be denied that they also did a certain amount of good to the countryside by taking interest in improvement to cultivation, manure, cattle, etc. They also took a lot of interest in sports and quite a large number of them could be described as benevolent despots. It is when the indigo planters started leaving the concerns to the hands of the young assistants or to the *Amlas* that a lot of troubles started everywhere. The soft treatment they always received in the hands of the administration till quite late was also one of the reasons why they could possibly oppress the tenantry. The history of the liquidation of the indigo planters will be found in the revised District Gazetteer of Champaran and the story need not be reiterated here. The introduction of the synthetic dye, Gandhiji's campaign against the indigo planters for their excess, growth of mass-consciousness and the time-spirit were some of the reasons why the indigo planters had to pack up. Many of them lingered as gentlemen-farmers and continued taking interests in clubs, sports like polo, pig hunting, racing, etc. Some of their descendants took jobs in business firms in Calcutta, Kanpur or other places, collieries, zamindaries, etc. There are now practically no remnants of this community in Darbhanga district.

Religious Beliefs

The people of the district are mostly Hindus, but the Muslims form an important minority. There are only two Buddhists in the whole district as mentioned in the District Census Handbook of Darbhanga, 1951, p. 113. The very few Jains in the district are only recent migrants mostly for business purposes. Most of the Sikhs are new arrivals. The Christian community is very small but forms a distinct group. Some decades back there was a small but remarkably active Brahmo community who pioneered many social movements. The theosophists and the Arya Samajists have also their great hold on the intellectual classes.

Religious belief of the Hindus.—The Hindus are divided into several sects. There are *Shaktas, Shaivas* and *Vaishnavas*. *Shaktas* worship Mother Goddess in her various forms, namely, Durga, Kali, etc. *Shaivas* worship Shiva, Mahadeva with His consort Parvati or Gouri. *Vaishnavas* are devotees of Vishnu or His manifestations in Rama and Krishna. Besides this triad, i.e., Shakti, Shiva and Vishnu, Ganesha and Surya (Sun God) are daily worshipped The five constitute the *Panchadevata* of the Hindu daily worship.

The Hindus of the area have no difficulty in worshipping more than one deity at a time. The worship of more than one deity is not only tolerated but is tacitly enjoined on a Hindu. Even this number is not exclusive. All other deities must be assumed

to be present in these five at the time of worship. Image worship has its great hold on the majority of the Hindus particularly on the sections that cannot always follow the creed of monism. Vedantic monism has been at the root of this catholic view of Godhead. The apparent inconsistency of image worship and monism indicates the eclecticism of Hinduism.

The Hindus hold certain books as sacred such as Vedas, Yoga Vashishtha, Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta, Ramayana, Mahabharata, etc. In religious meetings portions of these books are recited. Those books have been the source of inspiration and a spiritual bliss to many a devotees (*bhaktas*). Three mediaeval saints, viz., Kabir, Surdas and Tulsidas of the western provinces have had profound influence over the people. Kabir has been dear to members of the lower castes like Gopas, Dusadhs, Khatwes, etc. He was the apostle of peace and love and brought in a great unity among the Hindus and the Muslims. The impact of Surdas and Tulsidas has been confined to the upper and more educated classes like Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, Vaisyas and Kayasthas. Of late, Kabir has attracted Brahmanas also in the villages particularly those who are backward in education. Kabir's faith is simple and his method of worship plain and impressive. It appeals direct to the heart and raises the simple folk to the height of devotion. Sur and Tulsi were Brahmanas, learned in the Sanskrit languages and literature. Their ideas demand a knowledge of Indian tradition and culture. That reserves them for the people who have had a grounding in Sanskrit learning.

Kabir's followers live more by his spirit than by his word. The songs and the modes of their singing prevalent among the *Kabirpanthis* (followers of Kabir) are all typical of Mithila. On the one hand admirers of Sur and Tulsi go more by their word than by spirit. While *Kabirpanthis* sing their *nirguna* in the Maithili language and in popular *Samdauni*, admirers of Sur and Tulsi read them in their own languages *Brajbhasha* and *Awadhi*. Tulsidasa's *Rama Charit Manas* and Surdasa's *padas* have been highly popular in the district.

In the 15th century a poet Vidyapati, who graced the court of Maharaja of Sugaona, was the most celebrated poet of the area. As a writer of Sanskrit works he was an author of considerable repute, but it is on his dainty lyrics and songs in the Vernacular that his fame chiefly rests. He was the first of the old master-poets whose short religious poems, dealing principally with Radha and Krishna. exercised an important influence on the religious history of Eastern India. His songs were adopted and enthusiastically recited by the celebrated Hindu reformer Chaitanya, who flourished at the beginning of the 16th century and through him, became the household poetry of the other bordering States of

India. His songs are so popular that every one can recite a few lines of his poems and songs. Vidyapati had widely influenced Chandidas, an immortal poet of Bengal.

During the later half of the nineteenth century the popularity of *Rama Charita Manas* in Mithila inspired the Maithil Brahmana poet Channa Jha (the court poet of Maharaja Lakshmeshwar Singh of Darbhanga Raj) to write his Ramayana in the Maithili language. Channa's Ramayana is very popular. A generation later it inspired another Maithil poet Lall Das, a Kayastha, to write his Ramayana, as good as Channa's. Lall's Ramayana has not had time to make its appeal felt. About the end of the nineteenth century it was expected that Channa's Ramayana would eclipse Tulsi's *Rama Charit Manas* and his *padas* would push out Sur's. Tulsidasa's Ramayana, however, remained where it was as the Maithil poets Channa, Lall or any other Maithil poet of devotion has failed to eclipse Kabir, Sur or Tulsi in Darbhanga.

New religious leaders and movements.—The Vedantic catholicity of Hinduism, however, has not been able to prevent narrowness of outlook and bigotry from degrading the social life of the people. Rigidity of caste rules and jealousy of new elements rising into virtues and reputation are its evidences.

There have been some religious reform movements in the last sixty years. Leaders have not been conspicuous. The movements have been either a part of the political struggle or appear to have been sponsored by men of average abilities. In the thirties a wave of non-violent sentiment passed through the area and left a large number of lower class people vegetarian. These had been living largely on fishing and hunting. The earthquake of 1934 brought about a large-scale misery in the belt. Since human energy failed to bring in sufficient relief, people looked to supernatural power for succour. It was significant that the new movement for non-injury to living beings did not originate with any member of the higher caste or wish of any learned person. Position or learning failed to keep the suffering people under its leadership. Those whose economy was comfortable were naturally conservative but the poor and low had no stake in the past. They readily went in for another mode of living to prevent a recurrence of the natural calamity that had overtaken them. A large number of Kewats, Dhanuks, Chamars, Dusadhs, Gonrhis (Mallahas), Musahars and others gave up eating fish or meat, put on *Kanthi* (*Tulsimala*) round the neck (*Kantha* as mark of non injury to animals and devotion to Vishnu). Many of them, of course, later returned to the old diet which included fish and meat. The failure of their vegetarianism was not entirely due to weakness in faith. Their poverty was largely responsible for their return to the old food.

The idea behind the movement to non-injury to life was not new. It was as old as Jainism or Buddhism which flourished in this area in the sixth century B.C. Jainism and Buddhism themselves were largely inspired by the Vedanta which upheld unity of life and sympathy with all beings as essence of good living. Reform movements which immediately followed Jainism and Buddhism were all under the spell of the two great teachers of non-violence Jaina and Buddha. *Ahimsa* which only made its appearance in the later Veda came to be the basis of Jainism and Buddhism and formed an important part even in the later Veda, i.e., Hindu religion. No Hindu, therefore, could think of rejecting the new demand for an extension of non-violence. The new movement was received without prejudice by the members of the upper castes.

The influence of the Brahmo Samaj founded on monotheism by Raja Ram Mohun Roy was felt in the 19th century when Keshab Chandra Sen, a Brahmo preacher and saint visited Darbhanga and other parts of Bihar. A branch of the Brahmo Samaj was started at Darbhanga. The School of Theosophists has also its profound influence and a number of centres are in existence. In our own days Gandhiji became almost a God to the unsophisticated and *Gandhibaba's* influence has almost a religious fervour.

Religious beliefs of the Muslims.—Monism is the cardinal principle of Islam and a devout Musalman has no other God but *Allah* and his *Rasul* or messenger, the Prophet Mohammad. But a sort of saint worship or *Pir* worship has become a common feature. A *Pir's* tomb often becomes a pilgrimage. In Darbhanga district there are several *Pir Dargahs*, such as, the *Mazar* or shrine of Maulana Samarkandi and *Bhikha Shah Sailani* on the western bank of Dighi tank of *mohalla* Misser Tola, town Darbhanga, shrine of Ashiq Baba and one other on the eastern and the north-west bank of Mirza Khan tank respectively. There are a number of *Dargahs*, namely, Rosera *Dargah* at Rosera, *Dargah* at Madhupur, Maina Rohika *Dargah* at village Maina, Rohika at P.-S. Bahera, locally visited on the occasion of annual *Urs* ceremony. The devout Muslims keep awake for the whole night and after the recital of the *maulood*, the *chadar* or sheet by which the tomb or *mazar* is covered is changed. At the occasion of annual *Urs*, thousands of people congregate and pay their homage to the shrine. On these occasions big *melas* are organised in which *Qwali* programme, etc., are performed with great pomp and grandeur. Besides these, there are a number of *masjids* or mosques such as Jama *masjid* at Qila ghat (it is said to have been built by Emperor Shah Jahan), two other Jama mosques (one at *mohalla* Bakerganj, Laheriasarai town and the other at Katki *bazar*, Darbhanga town), and there are a number of other small mosques scattered throughout the district. There is a separate Jama *masjid* for the Wahabi sect of Muslims at mohalla Imambari, Laheriasarai. Another

important mosque is known as Jhagaraua *masjid* in the heart of the Darbhanga Raj compound. The name itself indicates there was some quarrel. The importance of this mosque is that there was a big dispute between the Muslim population of the town and Maharaja of Darbhanga, say some seventy-five years back and the name recalls that episode.

MANNERS AND CUSTOMS

The influence of western education and the impact of modern concepts about social equality and justice, individual freedom and the place of religion in life have brought about in the course of the last half a century a series of remarkable changes in the customs, manners, beliefs and the general sense of values in Indian society. The pace of change has been further accelerated and its direction crystallized by the operation of the new economic forces which as a result of the introduction of mechanical power have revolutionized the methods of production, given rise to large concentrations of population in urban areas and by the very nature of the conditions of work created by them helped in cutting across that social isolation which a caste system based purely on birth had imposed in the rigidly separated innumerable communal groups of which Indian society is made. As in every other sphere of life so also in social and religious matters, this district has also come out of a more or less static spell. This pace has, however, been slower in this district because of the traditional aristocracy of the Maithils who had been able to keep the district in a sort of cultural isolation to a great extent. This is the reason why the Christian missions have not been able to go ahead in this district as they have done in some other districts. The Maharajadhiraj is still regarded with a certain amount of religious fervour as the 'Mithila Naresh' and is looked up to for all social and religious matters of the Maithils. Naturally, the hold of the traditional customs and religious obligations is yet far too deep.

The major part of the customs of the Hindus consists of ritualistic practices related to various ceremonies known as *Samskaras* (sacraments). These ceremonies which principally consist of purifying rites are conducted under the directions according to orthodox practice, of a Brahmana priest. Regarding the exact number of these *samskaras* there is a great divergence of views among the *smriti* writers. According to some, sixteen *samskaras* as they are *nitya* (usual) must be performed, and the rest twenty-four as they are *naimittika* (special) ones are left to choice. They are observed by almost all castes above those that were traditionally considered to be the lowest. The chief of these customary rituals are those at birth, thread-girding, marriage, pregnancy and death. These *samskaras* find their hold with regard to the Brahmanas of the village which may be considered good for the whole of the district of Darbhanga.

The prospect of a child birth is watched with anxiety and eagerness by the family and in her first pregnancy the young wife is treated with great care and tenderness both at her parent's and at her husband's. Her desires are believed to foreshadow and influence the characteristics and sex of the child. She has to observe a number of taboos. Birth-marks and congenital defects in the child are often ascribed to the neglect of the longings and the non-observance of taboos. Because of her delicate condition she is considered particularly open to attacks of evil spirits and following the current folklore she complies with a number of do's and don'ts. The *grhyasutres* prescribed for the benefit of the pregnant woman a number of observances of magico-religious nature and believers in the efficacy of vedic *samskaras* follow them to a varying extent.

For her first confinement the young wife generally goes to her parent's house. At the inception of labour pain she takes to the lying in a room which has been swept clean and kept warm, dim-lighted and free from draught. A midwife (a *chamain* in rural areas and a trained nurse or *dai* in urban areas) generally known to the family and engaged beforehand is called in and she attends the girl from then onwards for ten or more days.

After delivery, the position of the woman is not changed for some time. After a while the midwife ties the child's umbilical cord with a cotton thread, a few inches away from navel and cuts it with a knife. In past days she used to touch with ashes the spot where the navel cord was cut and rub the mother and child with turmeric and oil but now the ashes are not used and instead boric powder, etc. is used. Both the child and the mother are then bathed in hot water, and the child is wrapped up. The after-birth is put in an earthen pot with a pice, a little turmeric and vermilion and buried in a hole in the mother's room but this system is now changing in the rural areas and it has completely gone out in urban areas. The mother is given butter, hot milk, etc., and the child is given a few drops of castor oil and honey. She with her child beside her, is laid on the cot under which a small fire of live coal is set. Near the door of the room an earthen pot of sacred water, some utensils made of iron either a knife or a sword and a thorny plant are set. That no evil spirit may come in with them, all visitors sprinkle a few drops of sacred water on their feet before entering the room. The *prasuti* (the mother) for some days is on special diet such as fried *Makhana*, *battisaka halwa*, fine rice, butter, pepper, honey and warm water for a few days till she reverts to her normal diet. For a few days both the child and the mother are treated as impure. On the third or fourth day both are bathed in hot water in which *nim* leaves are boiled. On the third and fourth days, beyond bathing the mother in hot water, no ceremony takes place.

As soon as a child is born, *Jaana kalik utsarga* is performed by the father and in case father is absent or dead it is performed by

any of the nearest male relatives. According to the means the *Utsargakarta* pays a *dakshina* minimum being Rs. 1.6 nP. to the Brahmana priest. The *utsargakarta* has to bathe soon after the *janmakalik utsarga* ceremony is over.

As a rule all rural or urban communities are particular about the sixth day worship known as *chhathi* ceremony. This function is generally performed during the night of the sixth day. People believe that the sixth day is full of danger to the new born child. They share the common belief that convulsive seizures and most other forms of disease are the work of spirits. They think that only by worshipping *Sasthidevi* can the child be saved from the attacks of evil spirits. On the sixth day friends and relations are asked to dine at the house.

On the ninth day a *puja* (*nanabhaiya*) is performed in the evening and during that ceremony other children of the age up to eight to nine years beat a *thali* of *kansa* with the help of a small wooden stick and go near the child in mother's lap and speak out in the ears of the child "*nanabhaiya nanabhaiya jhat, bachcha janalai parat*". Then coins, small-shells and fried paddy (*dhan kalawa*) are mixed and thrown up into the air and collected by the children. Yellow garments are worn by both the mother and the child on the sixth or *chhathi* day and ninth day.

On the eleventh or twelfth day *namakaran sanskar* ceremony takes place. It is generally performed in the evening. Women friends are asked to the house, musicians play, the child is cradled and the naming ceremony is celebrated. The *karnavedh* (piercing of the ear-lobes) ceremony may take place the same morning or may be postponed to the sixth or twelfth month.

Both the *karnavedh* and *chudakarna* or *mundan* (the first cutting of the hair on the child's head) ceremony has a place in the Hindu *Sanskaras* and they generally take place in the fifth year in this district. *Karnavedh* ceremony is strictly followed among the Maithil Brahmanas of the district but to other Hindu castes and communities, this ceremony is not essential. For *khari* or *akshar arambha* the same age is prescribed as for *karnavedh* or *mundan*.

The thread girding ceremony is prescribed for all Hindus claiming a place in the first three varnas (caste groups). In essence it is a rite initiating a boy to *brahmacharyashrama* (stage of studenthood).

A *kumara* (boy) undergoes the *upanayan* or thread-girding at the age of eight or after eighth, eleventh and twelfth years from birth being considered the proper time for the ceremony. In the district of Darbhanga, this ceremony is performed at the age of

twelve. The *muhurta* (proper time) for thread-girding occurs in the five months of Magha, Phalguna, Chaitra, Vaishakh and Jyestha. In any one of these months the astrologer chooses a lucky day, paying special attention to the month in which, the constellation under which, and the hour of the day at which, the boy was born. In a rich family this ceremony is celebrated with great pomp.

Preparations begin a few days before the thread-girding day. Drummers and pipers are engaged. The house is cleaned and whitewashed. A booth is raised in front of the house, and its posts are ornamented with plantain trees, mango twigs and flowers. On the western side of the booth an altar is raised, facing east. Invitation letters marked with red mark (*rodi*) are sent to friends and kinspeople. A day or two before the thread-girding, an *akshat* (invitation processing) consisting of the boy's parents and the family priest, first visit the local temple of Ganapati and perform the Ganapati *puja* and pray to the god to be present at the ceremony with his two consorts Ridhi and Siddhi; they then go to the houses of select relatives and friends to give them personal invitation.

As the lucky moment draws near on the lucky day, the friends and kinspeople asked to the ceremony meet at the house and take their seats in the booth. The father sits on a *pidha* placed on the *vedi* with his face to the east, while the boy stands before him facing west and the priests hold between them a curtain marked with a vermilion *swastika* (lucky cross). The boy's sister stands behind the boy with a lighted lamp and a cocoanut in her hands. The priests recite the *manglastakas* (lucky verses) and guests throw *akshta* (rice mixed with *rodi*) at the boy and his father. At the proper *muhurta* (lucky moment), the priests stop chanting, the musicians redouble their noise, the curtain is pulled to the north and the boy lays his head on his father's feet. The father blesses him and seats him on his right. *Pan*, perfume and rosewater are distributed among the guests who then withdraw, usually receiving a present of a cocoanut each. It is now getting customary for the guests to make some present to the boy on this occasion.

The *upanayan* ritual now begins. The priest and other Brahmanas throw *akshata* over the boy's head and seat him on a *pidha* (a flat wooden seat) to the father's right. An earthen altar is traced in front of the father, blades of sacred grass (*dubbhi*) are spread over it and a *homa* (sacrificial fire) is kindled on it. The priest *daubs* a cotton string in oil and turmeric, ties it round the boy's waist and gives him a *langoti* (loin-cloth) to wear. He then rolls a yellow short waist-cloth, round his waist and a white one round his shoulders. Another string daubed with oil and turmeric and a bit of deer skin passed into it, is hung on the left shoulder of

the boy in the manner of a sacred thread. Offerings of *ghee*, sesamum, and seven kinds of sacred fuel sticks are made to the sacrificial fire. The boy is made to pass between the sacrificial fire and his father, sip three *achamanas* and repeat texts. He then goes back between the fire and his father and takes his seat.

The boy now with folded hands approaches the *acharya* (Preceptor-priest) and makes a request to initiate him into *brahmacharyashrama* (stage of studenthood). The *acharya* grants his request, hands over to him a consecrated *yajnopavita* (sacred thread) and a *danda* of *palas* and gives him general instructions as to how to acquire knowledge. The *acharya* then takes the boy out to see the sun and makes him repeat his prayer to the sun.

The principal sacrifice of the ceremony is then gone through. The *acharya* makes four offerings of sacred fuel sticks and then the boy makes an offering of one sacred fuel stick and then wipes off his face thrice with words purporting, "I annoint myself with lustre and may *Agni* (Fire God) and *Indra* (Rain God) bestow on me insight, offspring and vigour". The *acharya* concludes the sacrifice with the final oblations, and sprinkles sacred water over the head of the boy and towards all directions. The *acharya* and the boy both then stand and offer prayer to *yajnadevata* (sacrificial god). The boy bends his knees, embraces the teacher's feet and requests him to recite the *Gayatri* (sacred verse). The *acharya* then recites *pada* (syllable) by *pada* the *Gayatri* verse and makes the boy repeat it syllable by syllable. The *acharya* then advises the student how to behave in his career of studentship, and tells him of the rules and observances to be followed by a *brahmachari* (student).

Money presents are made to the priests, who then bless the "student" and the father.

In the evening the *bhiksavala* (begging procession of relatives and friends) goes to the temple of Ganapati with music and firework, etc. The boy who is attended by his priest bows before the god and the procession returns home. The boy is then seated near the altar, the priest sits near him, and places a bamboo basket or a *sup* (winnowing fan) before him. The mother of the boy comes and stands before him near the altar. The boy says to her in Sanskrit, "*Bhavati bhiksam dehi* (Lady, give me alms)", and holds the bamboo basket before her. The mother blesses him and puts sweet-balls, rice, etc., into the basket. Other married women follow the boy repeating the same words to each. The contents of the bamboo basket go to the priest who gives part of the sweetmeats to the boy and keeps the rest for himself. The last rite of the *upanayana* ceremony is *medha-janan*. A small square earthen mound is raised and a *palas* branch planted in it. The boy pours water round the plant, prays *Medha*, the goddess of mind, to give him knowledge and wealth.

The *upanayana* ceremony often used to last for as many as four days in olden times. Now, however, it is generally only a one day affair. The thread girding ceremony is generally followed now among the Brahmanas and a few other castes like Rajput, Bhumihars, etc. It is now not restricted for all castes and communities excepting the Brahamanas.

After *upanayana* ceremony there is a *Samavartana* (return) ceremony. This ceremony makes the boy | return the *grihastashrama* (householder), i.e., now the boy is allowed to marry and lead a life of a *grihasta*.

So far the marriage is concerned, the details have been discussed earlier.

Funerary customs

Hindus generally cremate their dead. At the time of death the dying man is normally brought outside the house if there is an *angan* (courtyard). The dying man is laid down on bare ground besmeared with cowdung, water and *kusha* grass being spread beneath him. Then tho body is besmeared with *gopichandan*, garland of *Rudraksha* beads and a *tulsi* plant is fixed near the head of the dying man whose head is kept always towards north, offerings are made. After the death, the dead body is carried by four persons and the deceased's son has to go with the dead body with an earthen pot in his hands to the burning ghat. Then several minor rituals like *agni sanskar*, *panch kathia* (all the funeral-bearers will throw five sticks from their over head to the back and they will not look behind and will proceed to another *ghat* to bathe) are strictly observed. The son or the person who performs the *agni sanskar* will undergo clean shaving of head and beard and moustaches. He wears the *uttariya*, i.e., white untailored cloth till the *Sradha* creremony.

On the third day those who go to the burning *ghat* and those who are related to the dead have to go for shaving of head. But this custom is prevalent only among the Srotriya Brahmanas. The relatives of the dead generally go under this rite among the other castes on the *dashma karma* ceremony which falls on the tenth day of the death. On the same day the fires of the pyre are extinguished and one *ekodashta* ceremony is performed. On the fourth day, if the deceased has a daughter, eleven Brahmanas are fed. Till ten days the *karta*, i.e., the person who performs the *agni sanskar*, has to offer *dasgatrak pinda*, i.e., all the ten parts of the body have to be completed thereby. On the ninth day mustard oil with mustard cakes is used by the *karta* and his relatives (*Dayadas*). *Karta* would take food known as *hawikka* prepared only in cow-*ghee* unsalted and offers *arghyasana* with food to the dead. On the tenth day the *karta* and his *dayadas* get their heads again clean shaved.

On the eleventh day the *karta* first goes to the family deity's (*kuladevata*) place and puts five *mutthis* of *urd* (a kind of lentil) in a new earthen pot on a new hearth (*chulha*) and on the *deodhi* (main door) he gives new white *sari*, etc., in the hands of the deceased's wife. Then he goes to the nearby tank or river and performs *ekadasha sradha karma*. Then he feeds eleven Brahmanas at the tank or river *ghats* and returns to his residence. At his residence also he has to feed the invited persons and Brahmanas.

On the twelfth day fourteen *ekodishtha* ceremony is performed and he breaks the *uttariya* near the tank or river as the case may be. He comes back to his residence and performs *dwadasha chumaon*, i.e., as soon as he enters the courtyard of his house the females begin to cry and an *aripana* or *alpana* is prepared where the *karta* is to wear a yellow *dhoti* and a yellow *dupatta*. He is to sit on a *pidha* (a flat wooden seat) and the females come to bless (*ashisha*) him. He goes to the *kuladevata's* place and offers his prayer and comes back to the courtyard. Meanwhile the *aripana* is rubbed off so that the *karta* may not see to it on his return from *kuladevata's* place.

Two types of *Sradha* are performed. One is *Panchadana* and the other is *Brihotsarga*. In *Panchadana Sradha*, five things, namely, cow, bed with beddings, *arhana* i.e., different utensils, *kanchan purkh*, i.e., statue prepared of gold, umbrella and shoes are given as gift to the Brahmanas. *Brihotsarga* goes side by side to the *Panchadana* but the difference is that a he-calf is branded with a hot iron rod by a *Purohit Mahapatra* (*Kan aha*) and along with the branded he-calf, four other calves are left loose to become bulls.

The above death rituals are prevalent in almost all the Hindu castes and communities with slight differences in certain rites. But these are strictly followed by the local Brahmanas especially the Srotriyas of the district.

INTER-CASTE RELATIONS

A very detailed discussion has been mentioned in the revised *District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur*. There is nothing exclusive in this district as regards inter-caste relations. The same pattern as in Bhagalpur may broadly be said to exist here also.

SOCIAL LIFE

Property and Inheritance

The Hindus are governed by the Hindu Law in the matters of inheritance and Mohammadans by the Mohammadan Law. The property of a Hindu is never held in abeyance. It is the general

principle of the Hindu Law that property devolves on the sons on the death of the father. According to Manu, the great law giver, "to the nearest *Sapinda* the inheritance next belongs". A Hindu accrues his right in the ancestral property as soon as he is conceived but such right cannot be accrued in the separate property of his father. There are two schools of Hindu Law, Dayabhag and Mitakshara which govern different sections of the Hindus.

The Hindu Women's Rights to Property Act (XVIII of 1937 amended by XI of 1938) has introduced important changes in the law of succession. This provides the widows to have equal shares along with the sons and dead son's wife also has the same right in case of separate property. Further in the case of a Mitakshara joint family the widow takes the place of her husband.

The position of women in this district along with the women elsewhere has substantially changed since the passing of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1956 and Hindu Succession Act, 1956, and the daughter gets a share in her father's property just as the son, provided her father does not debar her legally. So far as Mohammadans are concerned the father has the absolute right in the property and can debar any of the sons from inheritance. Among Mohammadans the daughter has as good claim in her father's property as the son and there is a fixed ratio of the rights of son and daughter and the other relatives.

Family life marriage and morals.

The idea of joint family system among the Hindus is rapidly liquidating even in the villages. The shift of the more intelligent and educated section from the rural areas to the towns is adding to the liquidation of the joint family system in the rural areas: Family life is becoming more and more individualistic. Usually the branch of the family which earns more money slowly separates from the poorer branch. Family life in villages is disintegrating and educated persons as a class are shifting to towns.

The previous idea of a Hindu marriage being more sacramental than contractual is on the wane. The orthodox restrictions of marriage alliance between particular relatives are, however, still basically followed. Contract marriages under Act III of 1874 are not unknown though not popular. The number of civil marriages, inter-caste marriages and inter-State marriages in the district is ten, two and three (1961) respectively. These types of marriages have been accepted as a matter of course. Though the Government of India has recently passed Anti-Dowry Act but still it is prevalent in some form or other. In middle class families the marriage of a daughter has become a problem due to the heavy demand of dowry. Widow remarriage is not held to be abnormal now. Working girls have no more difficulties to get married than others.

But it has got to be admitted that although theoretically women are held in high esteem, but they are not given their proper position yet either in the rural or urban areas. Still economically women are dependent on their husbands, fathers or sons or others due to the social structure. Independent earning by women is still not common. It is a fact that the women of the lower castes or the working girls are economically better off owing to their earning status. It is, unfortunately, this backwardness of the women as a class that is holding back a broadbased social upgrading. There are, however, distinct signs of a break and the Indian National Congress, Bharat Sewak Samaj, All-India Women's Council, Social Service Board and various other voluntary social services organisations are actively engaged in broadbasing the social structure where women will have their full share. The Brahmo Samaj creed, a minority religion, at one time, had quite a few adherents at one time and some of the well-known Brahmo preachers used to visit Darbhanga and make prolonged stay. The contribution of the Brahmos towards broadbasing the society is not inconsiderable. The spread of education among women in Darbhanga district has been steady but not phenomenal. Only recently a Girl's Tutorial College has been started in Darbhanga. Marital age has been extended generally.

Marriage and the Panjikars

The Maithil Brahmanas may be categorised into four groups—Srotriyas, Yogya, Panjivadha and Jaiwar or Srotiyas and non-Srotriyas. Even among the Srotriyas there are eight levels. Their marriage system is the same but they differ in certain rituals.

The Panji system and the Panjikars have a great influence on the social and religious life of the Maithils. It is said that during the reign of Maharaja Harisimhadeva, last of the *rajas* of Mithila in the 14th century, an interesting case was brought to his court. A married female was held up for unchastity and at first held to be guilty. She appealed for a reconsideration of her case. The case was re-examined and she was found innocent. This case compelled the king to call a meeting of the Brahmanas of his kingdom. When the Brahmanas assembled in the king's court, the king considered each and every Brahmana's ethical bend and he evolved out the *Panji* system according to which a systematic genealogical table of every Maithil Brahmana family and of the Maithil Karan Kayasthas was recorded and a class of people known as *Panjikars* (Chroniclers) had to maintain and continue this chronology. In fixation of marriage of a Maithil Brahmana, these *Panjikars* maintain a list of boys technically known as "*Adhikarmala*". The relatives of bride's side chose boys or bridegrooms from this very '*Adhikarmala*'. The *Panjikars* help them to give the ropes about the eligibility of marriage between a boy and a girl.

There are altogether about 180 stocks or *Mulas* among Maithil Brahmanas but most of them are indeterminate. There are only 36 stocks or *Mulas* that are determinate or *Vyavasthita* and the bulk of the Maithil Brahmanas belong to one or the other of these 36 stocks. Each stock, however, has several branches. One stock of Kasyapa Gotra with the place of origin at Mandara even now a famous village some eight miles west of Madhubani, has as many as eighty-four different branches. To indicate this, another place-name was added, of course a little later on, say during the years following the consolidation, which was the name of the village where that branch had its home at the time of *Panji prabandha*. Thus, a Maithil Brahmana gives his identification by two place-names, the first in its adjective form, is the name of the "*Mula*", the place of origin of the stock, and the second is the name of "*Grama*" or "*Dera*" which is the place of habitation of the particular branch to which he belongs. This is the *Panji prabandha* of the consolidation of the genealogies. It was completed in the Saka year 1248 some three years after Harisimhadeva was defeated by Mohammad Tughlaq and had to retire to Nepal. Still the *Prabandha* was called *Harisimhadeva Vyavastha* or the Ordination of Harisimhadeva because it was begun during his reign under his patronage by him.

Originally each stock or "*Mula*" had its own *Panji* which mentioned not only the sons' but also the daughters' names with names of their children. But gradually when population went on increasing and these *Panjis* became voluminous, it became almost impossible for all the *Panjikaras* to keep all the *Panjis*, i.e., the *Panjis* of all the *Mulas* in the same form in which they were begun. These *Panjis* which are "*Mula-Panjis*" are still there but a *Panjikara* generally keeps the *Panjis* of only those *Mulas* he serves. A new method was later on devised by which a single *Panji* should give a general outline of all the important stocks. This is the "*Saka Panji*" which every *Panjikara* commits to memory as the first step in his study of the vast *Panji* literature. Here the genealogy of one "*Mula*" is begun and as soon as the marriage alliance with another "*Mula*" is stated, the genealogy of the second *Mula* is given from the *Viji Purusa* down the particular branch to the person under reference. As the alliance of one "*Mula*" is always with another "*Mula*" of a different *Gotra*, all important "*Mulas*" are thus covered. The genealogies of the different "*Mulas*" are thus inter-connected in this but they are not comprehensive because here only that particular branch is detailed in which the particular alliance in the given context has taken place. Many "*Mulas*" are left out and many more branches, but it is, on the other hand, very handy and can give in one single volume the genealogies of most of the prominent stocks in their prominent branches. The *Sakha Panji*, most commonly used at present, commences with the family of the Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga and has been in vogue for more than three centuries

now. There is also another *Panji*, called the "*Patra Panji*" in which the different branches of a "*Mula*" are enumerated with the names of the persons with whom the branches started.

All this was done obviously to safeguard against union between persons within degree prohibited by the *Sastras* and it was done for all the different castes of Mithila. No other caste except the Brahmanas and the Kayasthas, however, confined itself only to Mithila in matter of marriage and as the genealogies as required by the ordinance of Harisimhadeva were not kept by people outside Mithila, the *Panjis* of the other castes though collected and consolidated as far as available at that time could not grow and died out.

There is, however, one respect in which a Maithil differs. The Maithil way of determining the auspices of the season for socio-religious functions particularly for marriages is unique. The indigenous people of the district of Darbhanga have their own *Panchanga* by which they are guided in their rites and rituals, fasts and festivals. In fact, the Maithil rules for determining the "*Suddhi*" of "*Samaya*", auspices of the season, are much more stringent, and therefore, the season for such socio-religious functions like *Upanayana*, marriage, installation of a deity or the consecration of a tank is periodical dependent upon the position not only of the sun and the moon but of the other planets also, e.g., Venus and Jupiter, for which there are elaborate rules in the *Sastras*. Even in the district of Darbhanga, however, there are people who are not Maithil but have migrated to this district from outside. If they have not yet merged into Maithil society and imbibed Maithil culture, they would be guided by the other *Panchangas* for example of Varanasi or Bengal as the case may be and follow the rules as they obtain in those schools in determining "*Suddhi*" of the season for holding marriage, etc.

In a Srotriya Brahmana's marriage the permission of the Darbhanga Maharaja has to be obtained because the Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga is taken to be the traditional head of all the Srotriya Brahmanas. Permission is given as a matter of course provided the negotiations are not within the prohibitive degrees of relationship.* After this permission (*Patvanagi*) is obtained the *Panjikar* is again resorted to and he gives his consent. The settlement of marriage is known as "*hathghari*".

The main purpose of the *Panjikar* is to look into the relations of the father and mother of both sides up to the past six generations. In a non-Srotriya Brahmana there is no head like the Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga and simply the *Panjikar's* permission is

*The certificate is called "A Swajana-Patra"—the form of non-consanguinity—a sort of license for union in marriage.

essential. There is also a custom known as "*Sidhanta*", i.e. the *Panjikar* reads out the genealogical table of both sides before four relations of each side and proves that the marriage can take place. The marriage of a Srotriya can take place only among the Srotriyas. If there is no bridegroom or bride among the Srotriyas then bridegroom or bride is chosen from the Yogya Brahmanas and only the bride or bridegroom is upgraded into Srotriya. Their parents remain Yogya.

The marital age of a Srotriya boy is usually between seventeen or eighteen and onwards up to thirty years and for a girl from eight up to fourteen years. But the girl must be married at the age of fourteen. In the marriage of a Srotriya Brahmana, the number of non-Srotriya *barat* party is not fixed but the number of Srotriya Brahmana is fixed according to levels mentioned above. If the *barat* of a first level Srotriya is going to a second level Srotriya the number of Srotriya Brahmanas will be only two, i.e., the bridegroom himself and one of his relations either his father or elder brother or uncle, etc. But if the *barat* is going to a same level Srotriya's house or even to a higher level, the number is not fixed. Among the non-Srotriyas there is no such restriction and there is no level among the non-Srotriyas.

The Srotriyas have restrictions with regard to the dress of a Srotriya bridegroom which is a silk *dhoti*, a silk *pag* (turban) and a silk *dupatta*, all non-tailored clothes. The Srotriya bridegroom will go with a clean shaven head. The bride wears a silk *ghaghari*, a silk *katechua* (blouse) and a few gold ornaments. Her head is left bare but hair is well dressed with a knot on the top. Only after the *Sindurdan* when the bridegroom puts on the head of the bride the *ghogta sari*, she puts on the *sari* over her head for the whole life. There is no dowry system among the Brahmanas.

Among the Srotriyas the boy will go to bride's house on a *Kharkharia*, a palanquin carried by eight or sixteen or thirty-two persons but among the non-Srotriyas there is no such restriction.

The *barat* of a Srotriya goes thrice to the bride's house, i.e., on the marriage day, on the fourth day (*Chaturthi karma*) and on the day the boy returns (*vida*). But among the non-Srotriyas there is no such system and the *barat* party returns on the very next day but the boy remains there till *Chaturthi karma*. He may remain there for a longer period and it is not essential that the *barat* should go again to return with the bridegroom. It is only on the invitation of bride's side that the members of bridegroom's side go again to the bride's house. Generally after *Duragaman* ceremony the girl comes to the house of her husband.

If the bridegroom's party of a Srotriya Brahmana is of a much higher level than the bride's *Duragaman* ceremony (wife going to

the husband's place for the first time) may be performed even on the day of marriage. If he is somewhat higher, *Duragaman* is performed during the first year of the marriage. If both of them are of equal level, the *Duragaman* takes place during the third year of the marriage. If the girl's level is higher than that of the boy, *Duragaman* must take place either during the fifth year or seventh year.

Among the Dhanuks, Nonias, Kewats, Goalas and Amats child marriage is prevalent But the *Duragaman* takes place only when they are grown up. They have got their own Brahmana *Purohits*.

Pardah system

Strict *pardah* is observed among the Srotriyas but it is not so strict among the non-Srotriyas and other castes and communities present in the village.

Gambling

A common offence associated with drinking is gambling. Gambling is not, however, a dangerous problem in the district. It is, however, understood that gambling is not confined to the lower strata of the society or the criminal class only. There are certain types of card games and games of dices indulged in within closed doors, but if played at public places they may be considered as gambling. The *Diwali* night is usually marked by gambling even in an open manner. Card games like *tintasia, mangpatta*, gambling with *cowries* appear to be common among the poor classes. Three *mohallas*, namely, Rahamganj. Mirza Khan tank and Gulobara or Baribazar in the towns of Laheriasarai and Darbhanga are reported to have regular gambling cells.

Prostitution and Traffic in women

Prostitutes were not a problem here as they were in Muzaffarpur, a neighbouring district which had hundreds of them. There were some prostitutes at Saidpur *mohalla* of Laheriasarai town. The suppression of Immoral Traffic in Girls and Women Act was passed by the Central Governmnet in 1956. It was enforced in Darbhanga in 1959. Since the enforcement of this Act the local prostitutes have deserted the *mohalla* and the houses have been occupied by local inhabitants.

Drinking

There has been a detailed discussion on this sub-section in the text on, "General Administration".

Types of dwellings

According to the census of 1951, there were 708,877 occupied houses, in the district of Darbhanga, 681,109 in the rural and 27,768 in the urban areas.*

*District Census Handbook of Darbhanga (1951), published in 1955, p. 2.

Houses in the cities have generally roofs of tiles, and so have a few, owned by well-to-do people, in some of the larger villages. Houses in rural areas are generally thatched and only a few flat roofed or double storeyed. Urban houses are generally built with *burnt brick ; most of the rural houses are built* of sun-dried brick and mud, mortar pointed mud, or mortar and thatched roofs. Window and door frames, door panels, and window shutters are generally made of bamboo, *babul*, mango, *jamun*, and in the rich of teak. Bamboo and teak rafters are largely used.

The houses in the district may be arranged under two divisions, immovable and movable. The immovable houses may be divided into four classes. Those with tiled roofs and walls of fire-baked bricks dressed with cement, sand and lime ; those with tiled roofs and walls of sun-bricks or mud ; those with flat earth or tiled roofs and walls of generally unburnt brick ; and those with thatched or tinned roofs and wattled or grass walls. The movable dwellings of canvas or mattings belong to wandering tribes like Gosain, etc., who carry them with them.

Mansions belonging to the old aristocracy and constructed in the old style are generally two-storeyed (*dumanjala*) and are built round quadrangles with burnt brick walls, tiled roofs and verandahs. They contain broad lobbies for large dinner parties, an office room, three or more sleeping rooms, rooms for keeping clothes and ornaments, a central store-room, a kitchen and a *kuladevata* or the place of worship. In the rear of the house are a cattle-shed and a bathing room. A privy is located in a distant corner either in front or behind according to convenience of the building. In the rear yard are flower and banana trees.

Steel and cement are generally used in the first class buildings for new types of two to three-storeyed with comparatively small courtyards. There are rows of small bungalows with small open spaces on all sides in the new areas developed under the town planning schemes. Reinforced concrete buildings are becoming quite common in the towns. Balconies, bay-windows and projections are now much in fashion. This is due to the Earthquake of 1934.

The more modest houses are generally one-storeyed, with walls of fire-baked or unbaked bricks and tiled or flat floors ; they contain three or four rooms. In towns they are more roomy and showy shops have a common traditional pattern. In rural places the house consists of a front verandah and a central room, with three or four other rooms, one of which is always set apart for cooking. If there is a room in the verandah, the owner of the house makes it his office and place of business. Each and every house in rural areas has either a separate room or a corner of the verandah reserved for the god (*kuladevata* as popularly known). Houses of

this class have generally a cattle-shed either in front or behind them. The cattle-sheds are either open or of thatched roof.

Houses occupied by husbandmen in villages are one-storeyed with unburnt brick walls, mud walls, flat earth or tiled or thatched roof and two rooms. They have also large cattle-sheds Single-roomed thatched huts with mud or mudwattled reed millet, roofed by a bamboo frame covered with grass and *khar* grass are generally owned by poorer land-holders, field labourers and Harijans and are found chiefly in villages.

Furniture and Decoration

Possession of furniture is an index of taste and depends on the economic incidence of the family. Tastes change along with the passage of time and what was luxury before has become a necessity now. So far as the incidence of furniture is concerned the town gives the cue. The villagers are clearly becoming more furniture minded. An average agriculturist will have small cots, *chaukies*, etc., while an average labourer in the village will have practically no furniture and his furniture will probably consist of a few mats and small *charpais* (cots). A well-to-do agriculturist who has some relatives working elsewhere will have a few chairs, tables, cots, etc. A Maithili Brahmana Pandit of an orthodox school in the village is no longer satisfied with a few bare *chaukies* or *pirhas* (wooden stools) but will have some chairs and tables along with his previous *chaukies* and *Pirhas*. Sleeping on the floor is only common among the poor. Anyone who can afford will have a *charpai* to sleep on. The possession of furniture in the village follows the usually accepted pattern common in the average well-to-do household in the towns with some changes. An average urban household has at least one distinction of there being an outer room meant for visitors which may also be used for sleeping or for studying and an inner apartment essentially meant for the ladies. This pattern exists in the villages also but the rigidity depends on the orthodoxy and partially on the economic incidence of the family. Normally in an orthodox Maithil family the outer *Bathaka* (apartment) for the outsiders is quite apart and will have very little touch with the inner apartment which is usually in a separate hut or house. The inner apartment in the villages has usually some mats, *charpais, pirhas, takhas* (wooden shelves for keeping ordinary things), etc.

In urban households, furniture of various kinds are usually seen. The rich persons with better types of well-planned houses have proper drawing room, bed room and dining room furniture. The average middle class families have not only a number of sleeping cots but also a few chairs, tables and wooden benches. The present trend is to have smaller houses with small-sized rooms and flats. This has set the pattern of furniture also to change. The heavy ornamented bedsteads or wardrobes or heavy chairs have

been given up and utility furniture of simple pattern are being adopted. There is the slant for austerity combined with utility in the present day requirements of furniture.

Internal decoration in the houses of the orthodox Maithils particularly in the villages has been covered elsewhere. The taste for internal decoration among the Maithils is absent along with the other communities so far as the villages are concerned. In the urban areas the ideas of internal decoration have followed more or less the western pattern. The moneyed people who have taste in the towns go in for pictures, fancy electric shades, delicate pieces of woodwork, etc. The present trend among the affluent is to have distempered painted walls. Arrangement of flowers in decorative vases is becoming popular. Gardening as a hobby has yet to develop.

Dress.

The dress of the Hindus of Darbhanga district is a blending of different items of dress shared in common with people all over India. The distinction of their dress lies not so much in the articles of wear as in the manner of wear. There has also been an adoption of the dress after Europe an style, introduced through long contact with the British which has been more common in the urban areas Some of the indigenous dresses may be mentioned:—

Male lower garment:—*langoti*, *janghia*, *dhoti*, *sanchi dhoti*, full-pant, half-pant, *pajama*, etc. Male upper garment *banian*,:—*khutia*, *mirjai*, *chadar*, *kurta*, *kamij or* shirt, *bandi*, *doshala*, *achakan*, *sherwani*, *bandagala ka* coat, Prince coat, coat, etc.

Male head dress :—*Satha pag*, *pagari*, *topi*, *rumal*, *sapha*, etc.

Female dress :—*choli*, *angia*, blouse or *bodice*, *sari*, *ghanghra*, petticoat, frock, *kurta*, *salwar*, *garara*, etc.

Child dress :—*Langoti*, *banian*, *kurta*, *janghia*, etc.

The labouring and agricultural classes are not so neat and clean in their dress but normally not rich enough to indulge their taste for finery. The well-to-do are fond of neat and clean gay clothes. They generally wear a *dhoti* round their waist, cover their body with a *ganjee* or a shirt or *kurta*. In cold and wet weather they throw a *kambal* (coarse blanket) or a cotton *chadar* over their shoulders and cover their ears with a woollen cloth or a cotton *gamchha* drawn from over head. Besides being worn as articles of dress, the blanket, *dhoti*, etc., are used as sleeping mats.

The Maithil Brahmana wears a *sanchi dhoti*, *khutia mirjai*, *chadar*, and keeps a *gamchha* (a towel) always on his shoulder, *satha pag* over his head and shoes. The peculiar head gear *pag*, a twisted *chadar* worn over the upper part of the body in a peculiar manner, an *achakan* or a long loose *kurta* with *dhoti* usually mark out a Maithil Pandit. But an orthodox Brahmana still wears

the prescribed dress and instead of modern shoes or chappals he still wears *chamaraundha* shoes, etc. In the urban areas the Maithil dress is going out and *pags* are rarely seen. The changed dresses like half-pant, full-pant, under-wear, shirt, *kurta, dhoti. pyjama,* long coat, coat, etc., have crept into their daily use. In the rural as well as urban areas *chatpatias* or *kharauns* (wooden clogs) are used in indoors by the well-to-do castes and communities. The middle classes wear clothes of the same form as those worn by the rich but of cheaper quality. The *dhoti* (about 50 inches wide and four or four and half yards long) is generally worn in such a way that the left side portion is drawn up and tucked behind and the right side remainder is folded breadthwise into a few pleats and tucked at the navel. But among the Maithil Brahmanas the *dhoti* is worn in such a way that both the portions are tucked behind, of course, at the navel they use a knot with the pleats tucked. But this does not mean that the Maithil Brahmanas do not wear in the customary manner as mentioned above at all.

While going out a gentleman of some means puts on a shirt or a *kurta* of muslin or silk, a pair of trousers or a *pyjama* or a *dhoti.* Indoors they generally wear a *dhoti* or a *loongi* or *pyjama* or a sleeping suit, etc. The peculiar Maithil dress is on the decline. Now-a-days many persons wear the small white "Gandhi cap" of cloth, "Jawahar-cut *bandi*" (a waist-coat) over their head and as upper garment respectively. Many men, particularly from among the educated, go out in a pair of trousers or *pyjama* and a shirt, with a hat on or bare headed, and with a walking stick. The wardrobe of the well-to-do young man may consist of all the items of the western dress including the "bush-shirt" and "bush-coat" of recent origin. His outdoor dress varies between three types :— (1) *Pyjama* and a long shirt or *kurta,* or a pair of short-pant and a shirt, the two flaps of the shirt being allowed to hang loose on the shorts or being tucked inside them, (2) A pair of trousers in combination with a shirt or a half-shirt, bush-shirt or a bush-coat. The shirt is tucked underneath the trousers and its sleeves may be rolled up in a band above the elbow. (3) A full western suit including trousers, shirt, perhaps a waist-coat and a necktie. For a ceremonial occasion he prefers to dress in Indian style in a *sherwani* or *achakan* or long coat or a Prince-coat. Among the urban young men it is now-a-days rare to find one wearing the peculiar Maithil dress which is in some evidence among the middle-aged orthodox Maithil Brahmanas. The muslims wear similar dress but they have a more leaning to *pyjama* than *dhotis.*

Female dress.—The woman's dress differs from urban to rural areas. In Mithila women wear a *sari* in a peculiar manner. First there is an undergarment like petti-coat or *janghia* tied to waist near the navel. The *sari* is tucked round the waist but the peculiarity lies in the manner of tucking the *koncha* (pleats). The

pleats are not tucked near the navel but on the left side of the waist and the *anchal* (edge of the *sari*) covers head. This traditional type of wearing a *sari* is common generally in the rural areas. In the urban areas the *sari* is worn in the more customary manner, i.e., tied round the waist with the pleats tucked at the navel and the *anchal* over their head. Previously females used to wear *choli* (a tight short blouse without brassiers) to cover the body above their waist. *Choli* has been now almost discarded and the modern type of blouse with short-sleeves is used instead. The use of brassiers has become common. The use of lady's *ganjee* (upper wear) next to skin or jumpers is now in vogue. Another peculiarity of Maithil women is that they sometimes simply wear a lady's *ganjee* or a brassier and cover their body with the help of their *sari*. Short tight blouse with low-cut neck and close fitting sleeves up to the elbow or sometimes sleeveless is coming into fashion revealing the region about the lower ribs for a space of one to three inches.

Dress of the Children :—Between the age of 2 to 10 male children wear shirt, *kurta, ganjee, pyjama*, half-pant, etc., and after this they wear the adult male dress. About 20 years back the male child used to wear a *langoti*, a loin cloth, a *ganjee* or a *kurta* but it has now changed.

A female baby wears a frock, *janghia*, etc. Between the age 2 to 8 they wear *ghaghara* and blouse in the rural areas but in the urban areas a frock and a *janghia*. The grown up girls from 8 to 14 wear both *sari*, blouse, petti-coat and *salwar*, frock, *dupatta*, etc. *Salwar* is coming into quick use in the urban areas.

So far the Muslim dress is concerned, the males wear a *pyjama, chust pyjama, loongi, kurta*, shirt, *sherwani, achkan*, long coat prince coat, coat, etc. They, also wear the *turki topi, Kashmiri* cap, etc. In the rural areas one can find the Maithil or Hindu influence over the Muslims with regard to their dress. They wear *dhoti* in the same fashion as Hindus.

A Muslim woman wears a *salwar, kurta, sari*, blouse brassiers, petti-coat, etc. The Muslim females are also influenced by the Maithil culture. They wear the *Sari* in the same fashion as Hindus. In rural areas the *pardah* is not so strictly observed. The poor rural Muslim women have to work in the fields and so *pardah* cannot be kept. Of course in the urban areas the well-to-do Muslim females observe *pardah* and for this they use a *burka*, a veil from head to the knee.

In the rural areas crude types of shoes or slippers are still in use. But in the urban areas modern footwear of chappals, shoes of various designs and slippers are in common use.

Ornaments

There is a wide difference between ornament used by the urban and the rural people as also by the rich and the poor. Ornaments also differ in types, as used by men and women and by boys and girls. Ladies in the urban areas go in for light and delicate ornaments set in patterns of gold and precious stones. Rich ladies in the villages wear mostly solid gold ornaments. Ornaments used for the feet are made of silver. Poorer village-folks wear ornaments made of silver, brass, etc. In the making of ornaments now-a-days, the tendency is to replace gold, silver and precious stones with alloys like "yellow metal", artificial jewels and stones. There has been an enormous increase in the prices of precious metals like gold and silver since 1937 (over 400 per cent) and naturally the use of these metals for the making of ornaments has considerably dwindled.

Male Ornaments.—It is no more a fashion now for men to wear ornaments extensively. Among the Maithil Brahmanas the wearing of a ***kanausi*** (a round ring made of gold) is prevalent but that also only among the children between 5 to 15 years. The male ornaments are chain. (*Sikari*), ring (***anguthi***), ***anant*** (arm-wear), etc. The use of a chain or *Sikari* is generally prevalent among the Bania and the Telis of the district. Another old ornament used by Maithil Brahmanas and a few others castes was ***kundala*** which is now not in vogue.

Female Ornaments.—Fashions in female ornament have undergone considerable change during the last sixty years, the general tendency being towards avoiding gold ornaments of heavy weight. The following is the list of ornaments in the wear of well-to-do ladies at present :—

Head Ornaments.—Head ornaments of any sort are now generally out of fashion However, some old types like ***mangtika***, ***tika***, etc., are still in vogue.

Ear Ornaments.—*Bali*, *makari*, *kanpasa*, *jhumka*, ***kundala***, ***kanausi***, etc., are still in vogue. Ear-rings of various types are now getting into fashion.

Nose Ornaments.—*Nakeli*, *bulki*, *nathiya*, *lawanga ka phool*, etc., are used by the village folks. But in towns ***nukbesar***, etc., is in general use. *Nathiya* is used by both urban and rural folks on ceremonial occasions.

Neck Ornaments.—*Suta* (*Hansuli*), ***sikari*** (chain). ***matarmala***, ***chandrahar***, necklace, ***chakti***, ***hanumabi*** (both on the neck and arm), ***kantha***, ***lapet***, ***kanaili***, etc., prepared both in gold and silver and precious stones are in vogue.

Hand Ornaments.—*Baju* (armlet), *katawi*, *anant*, *bala* (bracelet), *ageli-pachheli*, *churi* (bangles of glass, lac, gold and silver), etc., are worn by the females. Rings (*anguthi*) of both gold and silver and sometimes decked with precious or artificial stones are worn both by the males and the females.

Waist Ornament.—The only ornament used for the waist is popularly known as *danrkas* in the rural areas and *kamardhani* in the urban.

Feet Ornaments.—*Pahunchi*, *paita*, *kara-chhara*, *payal*, etc., are in vogue. All these four ornaments are used by village ladies and in towns only *kara-chhara* and *payal* are in use. Gold in not used for these ornaments.

Child Ornaments.—*Kanausi*, *bali*, chain and *light balas* (bracelets) are used by both male and female children.

Food

Darbhanga district is essentially paddy growing. There are rivers, tanks, and marshes which grow fish in abundance. The numerous mango orchards of Darbhanga are famous for luscious produce in the summer. The ponds and marshes grow water-berries like *Singhara*, *Makhana*. There is a rich incidence of live-stock and plenty of milk and milk products are produced. The moist climate of the district encourages a good outturn of vegetables. Plantain clumps, guava, *Khajur* and *Tal* trees are quite in abundance. Rice and pulses with their bye-products like *chura*, *sattu*, wheat, vegetables, milk and curd and milk products like *Kheer*, *Chhena*, etc., form the essential diet of the common man who is not below the margin of subsistence. Fish, curd and sweets are very popular items and fish is given preference to meat by the non-vegetarians. The people of this district are extremely fond of *papad*, *Amawat* (dried mango juice cakes), *Achar* (pickles), *badi*, preparations of *Makhana* and *Singhara* which occur in abundance. Savouries and appetisers like *chatni*, *chauretha* (fried leaf of *tilkona* mixed with powdered rice) are in great demand. *Puri*, *kachauri* prepared in good *ghee* are still quite common in the village households. Plantain leaves are in common use in place of plates and *Puri* and *Kachauri* are often served on the *thambapat* (chip of the trunk of the banana plant). Vegetables are usually served in a typical Maithil home in small leaf cups (*donas*) out of the banana leaf or *khoksa* leaf. On the average there will be 5 or 7 types of preparations of vegetables in the household. If more types of vegetables are to be served it should be in odd numbers. Usually vegetables are cooked without salt and specially among the Maithils and salt is served separately. Milk, banana and sugar are served in separate

leaf cups, Maithils take a lot of *pan* leaves with *jarda* (tobacco) and betelnut. The manner of serving the food is artistic and in great contrast to that in other districts. Mashed potato will be served in shapes of birds, boats, etc. Scrupulous neatness in cooking and serving food is observed in the Srotriya house.

Spices and condiments and chillies are much in use. Onion and garlic are also in use but not much by the orthodox Srotriyas.

The food in a Maithil Brahmana house is very much akin to the food in a Bengali household in the interior of Bengal. Muslim influence is seen in various types of meat preparation, patronised more in the urban areas. Some of these preparations are *biriani, kalia, korma, kofta, kabab, murga mosallum.* A certain amount of impact of the Bengali kitchen is seen in fish and vegetable preparations. Eggs were a taboo before but not now. Western methods of light and simple cooking like baking, boiling, broiling, sewing, etc., have also taken some roots in the households of the well-to-do persons. The other types of meat preparation like roast, cutlets, chops and various kinds of pudding are also in the menu of such persons. Tea drinking has become a common habit and tea shops are to be seen often in big villages. Coffee has not yet become popular. Cold drink particularly *lassi* (drink of curd), various kinds of coloured aerated water have penetrated even into the villages. Smoking has become common and it is not confined to the males only. *Biris* and cigarettes are more in use than *hukkas* (hubble-bubbles). Unlike other districts of Bihar the commonman is more fruit-minded in this district probably because fruits like mango, *lichi,* water melons, jackfruit, *jamuns, papitas, bels,* plantains, *singharas, makhana,* etc., are more available. As sugarcane is commonly grown, there is a good demand for them.

Since the majority of the population is still vegetarian, it should be mentioned that although the common vegetables of the different seasons in this part of the country are available in abundance, pickles of vegetables are also made.

The cooking medium is still mustard oil, hydrogenated oil and *ghee.* Darbhanga used to be a large *ghee* producing centre and still good *ghee,* cream and butter are available.

Amusements

Songs and music have a great fascination for the rural people. The tradition of *deshirag* and *ragini* owes its existence to king Nanyadeva. Dancing has existed since 14th century. *Bhajans* and *Kirtans,* devotional songs with music have a universal appeal. The *Kirtaniya* dancers and singers have a wonderful tradition. The folk songs of Mithila are very rich. Apart from them there is a

craze for particular types of songs in particular seasons like *Holi*. The *melas* and fairs have a great impact on the rural population. Usually, the *melas* and fairs provide a number of amusement centres such as *nautanki*, theatre parties, *jatras*, circus, cinema shows, etc. Football matches and wrestling bouts and *jatra* parties are very popular. There are a good number of *Kirtaniyas* (those who sing *kirtans*) in the district. But these are all for particular occasions and there is hardly any source of amusement for daily consumption in the villages. The result is that a lot of recreation time is wasted in mere gossips, back-biting and scheming for litigation. There is hardly any youth association. The few village libraries could be converted into social clubs also.

The towns in the district have cinema houses and a few clubs. The cinema houses attract good houses and there being hardly any other source of amusements the students mostly frequent the cinema houses. The few clubs are meant for the richer classes and the membership is extremely small. There are arrangements for indoor games. Tennis which was once popular has now declined due to the growing expenses in running Tennis clubs. The prices of the racquets, balls, shoes and other equipments have all gone up tremendously. Cricket is hardly played but football has a great appeal. Any good football match will draw a very big crowd. The towns, however, have hardly any adequate arrangements for playing grounds, parks or boating arrangements although there are excellent large tanks. If the students and the younger generation have hardly any source of good and cheap amusement, the labouring classes have none. Even the Chandradhari Museum usually remains closed and is not thrown open to the public. The excellent Darbhanga Raj Library has no relaxation arrangements and even the Library is very little used.

Games

In the play activities of infancy and early childhood toys predominate over games. Babies are fascinated by multicoloured rattles (*jhunjhunna*) and toys that make a variety of sounds—all kinds of pipes, whistles, drums, etc. These are followed by their keen rival, the doll and then come the toys on wheels. It is not an uncommon sight to see a child tripping about the house with *Kharkharwa gadiwala* or running about dragging behind him a toy-vehicle attached to a short string. Toys were becoming very expensive and the plastic toys have come in the right time.

Intelligent indoor games are popular and are practically all taken from the west. Some of the popular games are carrom, word-building, ping-pong, etc. Various types of simple card games are popular. Dice-games are mostly confined to the older generations.

Children of four to five years of age play a few games taking part by turns. *Chora-nukhi* or hide and seek is a simple chase

and tag game. Games of the 'Imitative' or make believe type also have their appeal. In these types of games, there are various roles like that of a cartman, horse-driver, engine-driver, palanquin-bearer, etc., enacted with fidelity to real life. They are games of the sort played with no set rules but with a good team spirit, every player having a part to perform.

Doll-dressing or *Kanivan-putra*, Doll-marriage, *ghar-ghar* (house), etc., are a favourite pastime among girls. The game of house keeping (*ghar-ghar*) is often played enthusiastically by girls with secondary roles given to boys.

Marbles, tops and kites have a great appeal for boys between the ages of six and sixteen and are played with competitive zest. On *Jur-shital* day, i. e., *Chaitra sankranti*, there is an annual festival of kite-flying. After *Aghani* harvest, i. e., from February to middle of April kite-flying is common.

A number of team-games are played in later childhood and adolescence, some of them are *Rumal-chor*, *Dole-patta*, *Gulli-danta*, etc.

Girls are greatly interested in dancing, skipping and singing. Boys on the other hand love to play strenuous games involving muscular exercise and skill. Following are some of the games played by girls :--*Panch-gotiya* or *Gana-goti* is a sedentary game played by them. There are other games *Denga-pani*, *Ghagho-rani*, etc., which are popular among girls. They all are light games but very amusing and can be played by group of any number of girls.

There are various popular games of the adults. Of the Indian games, *Kabaddi* is the most popular one.

The popular outdoor games in the district are Football, Hockey, Volley-ball, Badminton, etc., and the indoor games are Cards, Chess, Carrom, Table-tennis, etc.

The district has very few gymnasiums. Drill and physical training in the schools are losing their hold. Most of the schools have no equipments for physical training.

Hindu Pilgrim Centres

There are a number of Hindu temples of Shiva, Durga, Vishnu and other Hindu gods and goddesses, scattered throughout the district. Shaivism, Vaishnavism, Shakti *Puja*, etc., seem to have had great hold as is seen by *Burhimai ka Mandir*, *Navaratna Mandir* at village Mangrauni. These temples attract a large number of devout Hindus during the months of *Srawan*, *Kartik Purnima*, *Shivaratri*, etc.

Besides temples, there are a number of sacred sites (*sthans*) such as *Kusheshwarsthan* (ten miles north-west of Hasanpur Railway Station), *Khudneshwaristhan* (At and P. O. Morwa, Samastipur Subdivision), *Tilkeshwarsthan* (ten miles from *Kusheshwarsthan*), *Kaileshwarsthan* (five miles west of Madhubani town), *Bageshwari-sthan* (Darbhanga), *Durgasthan* (Khojipatti, Darbhanga), etc. Big *melas* and fairs are organised at these sacred sites.

The following table shows the names of some of the *melas* :—

Name of the melas	Duration	Months and Occasions
	Days	
Vivah Panchami mela ..	15	*Chaitra Ramnavami and Agrahan Vivah Panchmi.*
Ahalyasthan mela ..	4	*Chaitra Ramanavami.*
Jatmulpur mela ..	15	*Phalgun Shivaratri.*
Kusheshwarsthan mela ..	4	*Phalgun Shivaratri and Makar Sankranti* (2 days each).
Mahadeo Math mela ..	3	*Phalgun Shivaratri.*
Kapileshwarsthan mela ..	3	*Phalgun Shivaratri.*
Durgasthan mela (Khojipatti)	3	*Vijayadashmi.*
Singhwara mela ..	4	*Vijayadashmi.*
Rajnagar mela ..	4	*Vijayadashmi.*
Gauraghat mela ..	4	2 days *Kartik Purnima* and 2 days *Maghi Purnima.*
Khari mela ..	1	*Basant Panchami.*
Hiropatt mela (Jale) ..	10	*Chaitra.*
Saurath mela ..	4	*Asarh.*
Vindeshwarsthan mela (one mile north of Lohna Road).	2	*Shivaratri.*
Bageshwaristhan mela ..	10	*Vijayadashmi.*
Tilyugga mela ..	1	*Chaitra Sankranti.*

Seasonal Customs

That this district has been a citadel of strict conservatism and the Brahmanic influence and there was plenty of food and leisure at one time could be made out by a study of the seasonal customs, most of which are still in vogue to a great extent. It is clear that the round of a large number of seasonal customs alone could maintain a very large number of the families of Brahmana priests, soothsayers, potters, drummers and other labourers.

In the month of *Aswin*, the *Durga Puja* is celebrated for a period of 9 days. Previously it was only the upper class and rich people that could get the images installed and worshipped and the lower caste-men and poorer people would visit the *Puja Bari* without any restriction. But now community *Puja* has come into vogue and a number of people combine and perform the *Durga Puja*. It is peculiar that on the 10th day of the *Puja*, i. e., *Bijoya Dashami* it is considered auspicious in this district to see *Nilkantha* and *Jagadamba* birds. The full moon of *Aswin*, *Kojagar Puja* is also a great occasion for the exchange of presents and feasts. Drinking of coconut water and exchange of betel, and betel-nuts are considered almost essential. On the *Amabasya* night of *Kartik* month *Lakshmi* is worshipped at dusk and *Kali mai* at the dead of night. For this occasion the houses are cleansed, whitewashed and painted. Milk pails are filled with water and mango leaves are placed with an earthen lamp. This is also an occasion for the worship of the spirit of the ancestors. The householder lights a torch from the flame of the earthen lamp and goes inside the house thrice and comes out chanting *mantras*. In the last part of the night, the head of the women folk beats the *Sup* (winnowing fan made of bamboo) with the burnt end of the hemp stalk and prays that poverty may run away on hearing the sound of the beating of the *Sup* (winnowing fan).

Bhratridwitiya is a great occasion when sisters greet their brothers ceremoniously. On *Gopasthami* day the bullocks are bathed and given special food. There was a custom when on this occasion a small pig would be let loose among the buffaloes and killed ultimately. This cruel custom has now rightly disappeared.

On *Devisthan Ekadashi* the courtyard is cleaned and painted with pasted rice water. The householders worship the goddess of wealth and the custom of playing with earthen emblems of *Shama Chakwa* still persists.

Another *parban* or seasonal custom is the *Nabanna* when new rice is offered to the ancestors and offerings are made to the fire god after the family deity is worshipped. This custom is commonly observed almost throughout Bengal and Assam. *Paus Sankranti* is a great day for the offering of *Til* mixed with *gur* by the females too, male members obtain a vow from them that they accept the responsibility of supporting them throughout the year. *Basant Panchami* in the month of *Magh* is another great occasion when plough is worshipped. This is a great day for the ploughmen who are sumptuously fed. The goddess Saraswati is also worshipped on this day. The worship of Saraswati was not so common four decades back. Another festival which has now grown more in importance is *Holi* in the month of *Phalgun*. Four decades back *Holi* festival did not have the present day spirit of exuberance and abandon and a certain amount of reckless exchange of jokes and singing of obscene songs. On the other hand *Chaitra*

Sankranti (Satuani) celebration has declined. On this day the mothers and elderly family relatives bless their sons and juniors with the sprinkling of cold water kept from overnight. The people used to throw water on each other's body by syringes made of bamboos. Barley or gram powder mixed with *gur* used to be served on the lotus leaves in the day. Every one on this day has to take food prepared overnight and the kitchen is not supposed to be lit up on that day. Fruit bearing trees and plants have to be watered. The householder has to make a gift of barley, earthen pots filled with water and cloth to the Brahmanas. It appears that the impact of *Holi* festival has led to the decline of this indigenous seasonal festival.

In this district, opening of *Panishala*, i.e., arrangement to serve cool drinking water with some eatables is considered a social obligation in the summer months. Even now this custom is observed although hardly any eatables are served. The blossoming of the mango trees heralds a joyous period. The mango gardens are carefully watched and people fix up swings attached to the mango trees. *Baramashia* and *Chaumasha* songs peculiar to the season are sung. There was a time when ripe mangoes used to be distributed freely by the richer folks. With the economic shifts this custom has gone out and now mango orchards form a part of the wealth of the owner, carefully watched and utilised.

The Maithil ladies observe a number of *Bratas* in which they take vows and offer *pujas*. *Batashavitri Brata*, *Panchajin Brata*, *Madhushravani* are some of them. *Madhushravani* festival is a very sweet occasion which comes in the month of *Shravan*. The newly-married brides hear *Madhushravani Katha* from the elderly ladies for 15 days and on the last day a *puja* is performed and the newly-married groom comes to the bride's house. *Nag Panchami* is observed by the ladies to appease the goddess of snakes. Balls of clay and paddy are put in the holes to appease the snakes. On this occasion the women of the backward and Harijan class form groups in every village and go out singing songs and beg alms in nine villages and the alms so collected is deposited in the house where serpent goddess is worshipped.

Painting

Painting is an inseparable aspect of the cultural life of the district.* Painting and particularly wall painting is highly developed in the Maithili households and the flow has been kept up from the past by the ladies particularly. Apart from wall paintings we find paintings on paper,** pottery and fans. In marriages

*There is a special design for every function, the most elaborate being for the function of the *Ekadashi* is the bright half of *Kartik* known as the *Devathana Ekadashi*. These paintings are known as *Aripana* or *Alpana* and are done in rice powder dry or moist and vermilion, by the women folk.

**Some of these paintings on paper were exhibited in a London Art Gallery, 1948.

utensils, baskets and the pottery are invariably painted. Colours and powders are mixed up with goat's milk, black is obtained by burning straw, and white by powdering rice and mixing it up with water. Usually the paintings used are *gulabi* (pink), *pila* (yellow), *nila* (blue), *Sindura* (red) and *suga-pankhi* (green). For outlines and tiny details a small bamboo-twig is used—the end being slightly frayed so that the fibre is like hair, while for putting on the larger washes a small piece of cloth is tied to a twig. Dr. Upendra Thakur in his "History of Mithila" mentions—"The subject-matter generally falls into two groups —(*i*) a series of heavenly forms to which are sometimes added the more mundane figures of the bride and bridegroom along with members of their wedding train, and (*ii*) a series of strictly selected vegetable and animal forms. Paintings have been usually done on the occasions of sacred thread-ceremony, the dedication or the renovation of the family shrine, and two ceremonies of marriage---the initial wedding rites and the final rites.

"On the former two occasions the subject-matter is confined to gods and goddesses, depicting *Durga*, *Kali*, *Rama* and *Sita*, *Radha* and *Krishna*, while at weddings (when painting is treated as essential) the following objects the sun and moon, a bamboo tree, a circle of lotuses, parrots, turtles and fish come into prominence. While the former is the symbol of the creation of auspicious scenes and divine blessings, the latter symbolises fertility. The bamboo tree and the ring of lotuses represent the diagrams of the sexual organs; parrots symbolise the love bird; turtles diagrammatise the lover's union and fishes the emblems of fertility, and the sun and the moon symbolise the life-giving qualities. The supernatural colour and splendour in a figure, which is hardly seen in ordinary life, is partly dictated by religious canons." He further mentions--"In the Kayastha painting we have again and again only two shades—black and a stale blood red colour, sometimes a dull terracotta colour and sometimes a dark madder colour. At times blue, grey, pink and yellow colours are also used".

Sculpture

Almost every village in Darbhanga has certain remains of old, often mutilated, black-stone images of innumerable gods and goddesses, both Brahmanic and Buddhistic. These images were all imported from Magadha which under the Pala kings (700—11,00 A.D.) turned themselves into a vast manufactory of sculpture for Buddhists as well as Brahmanas throughout the North-Eastern India. When this art died out at Gaya after the conquest of Magadha by the Muhammadans, these images were imported from Varanasi and for some time past Jaipur in Rajputana has been perhaps as important as Varanasi from where images specially in white marble, sometimes coloured, have been imported.

The local people, however, have not been without talent in this art. They achieved in clay what the Magadhans did in stone. Even today Darbhanga town itself as well as many places in this district are producing excellent pieces of sculpture. They show rare craftsmanship and are capable of development.

In the district of Darbhanga there is a festival in every *Kartik* on the *Purnima* day, known as the festival of "*Sama*" held by women in honour of their brothers. For this occasion every woman of all castes and classes who has a brother makes out figures of birds and beasts, sometimes of men also, out of clay which she paints artistically. This is a very useful practice in art of clay sculpture which is thus kept alive by the women folk of the district.

Architecture

Darbhanga's ancient buildings in their remains scattered throughout the district in numerous mounds of various dimensions show no evidence of architectural excellence. The buildings including the royal palaces were conceived mostly from a utilitarian point of view. As one approaches an ancient site, one is impressed with its size rather than its beauty. The few buildings that have been unearthed are all temples dedicated to particular deities and they seem to have been built of burnt bricks of different sizes and the earlier we go, the longer we get the size of the brick. Spanning was done with timber. Stone was not used until the medieaval times when also it was only sparingly employed mainly in door-frames and decorative sculptures. These were generally done in basalt (black stone) and were manufactured in Magadha especially Gaya.

For residential purpose, Maharaja Madhava Singha of Darbhanga (1776—1803) is known to have been the first person in the district of Darbhanga to have built a house wholly of burnt bricks. No building in the district of Darbhanga is thus even 200 years old. There are many families who still have a prejudice against a brick-built house. Residential houses are all built of timber, bamboos and straw, the roof slanting and thatched, the walls of bamboos plastered with thick mud. These materials being abundant in the district, such houses are cheap and easy to build and can stand even during violent earthquakes or devastating floods also. In fact, the district of Darbhanga falls within the seisonic belt and is liable to earthquake shocks. The devastation of the earthquake of 1934 showed how safe it was to live in *kutcha* houses. The district of Darbhanga has also been a victim of almost annual floods. Houses of bamboos and straw suffer less than any other. It is not, therefore, strange that with an abundance of excellent building materials at hand—the people of Darbhanga did not go in for *pucca* houses. The only other kind of houses found in the district is made of mud or sun-burnt bricks but such houses run

a great risk during floods, and are, therefore, built only where flood water is never likely to reach.

Of late stately mansions of great architectural beauty have been built by the Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga all over the district specially at Darbhanga and Rajnagar but those at Rajnagar were greatly damaged during the last Earthquake of 1934. There are still some temples which are fine specimens. Temple building was also patronised by the kings, Dr. Thakur observes—

> "In the simplest form in which this sort of temple could appear, in point of theory, we should have a small square room to contain the sacred image, with a more or less ordinary roof, sloped to keep the rain off and in course of time, a narrow portico in front to keep the fierceness of the sun from entering the shrine. There is nothing curvilinear about it, and such a primitive type of structure is remote from the Black Pagoda of Konarak. A perfectly plain, undecorated wall, and an equally undecorated painted roof, square in plan, is all that these Tirhut Types stand for. The Hara Mandira at Bagada (Champaran), the Kamalesvaranatha temple and Triveni (Champaran), the Mahadevasthana at Sauratha (Darbhanga), the Ramachandra Mandira at Ahalyasthan at Ahiari (in Darbhanga), the Bhagavati Mandira at Subegarh (Muzaffarpur), the Kankali Devi temple at Simraongarh in Nepalese territory, the Shiva Mandira at Sheohar (Muzaffarpur), the Rama Mandira at Muzaffarpur (a perfect symbol of the developed *Navaratna* type), and another temple at Muzaffarpur to Rama and Janki—"the utmost culmination of temple-architecture"—and others in the series so preserved at different places are sufficient to "illustrate the whole development of this important style—a series including many shrines of special interest and beauty."

Music

In the cultural life of Mithila music plays a very important role and there is no occasion of festivity, social or religious, where music is not considered an essential part of the function. Continuity of tradition in modern Mithila may be traced back to the time of Harisimhadeva, the last King of the Karnata dynasty when a new orientation was given to the social life of the land and new values of culture established. In *Varnaratnakar*, a work of unique historical and cultural importance produced during the time of Harisimhadeva by a great poet and scholar, Jyotirisvara Thakur, styled Kavisekharacharya, there is a graphic description of music both vocal and instrumental, classical and folk, but we cannot say definitely how far it is of Mithila proper. But from Vidyapati

onwards till the beginning of the present century Maithili poetry has been in songs only meant to be sung and actully sung. Mithila school of music, however, was there even before. P.C. Bagchi of the Visvabharati records in his "*Bharata O China*" (page 51-52) that Brahmana musicians of India would go to China under the Jangs (618—907 A.D.) and leave many deep imprints of Indian music on China. Bagchi's discussion of the subject leads one to the inference that the Indian musicians going to China were mostly from Mithila. About the same time Sankara's direct disciple and biographer Anandagiri also refers to Mithila's music in his "*Sankaravijaya*".

With Vidyapati we come upon surer grounds. Vidyapati gave a new orientation to the art of music. He was greatly impressed with what Jayadeva had achieved in the field of Sanskrit poetry. Vidyapati took the pattern that was brought into vogue by Jayadeva and used Maithili as the language which was still Sanskrit in Jayadeva. He used a large number of *Ragas* in different *Talas* in his songs but they were all songs in *Ragas* and *Talas* so much so that in Vidyapati, as in his followers, the *Chhandas* are the same as the *Ragas*, or in other words, the name of the *Raga* in which the song is composed in the name of the metre also. Vidyapati was a musician as well as a poet and whatever he composed, he set to music. But he could not possibly sing all his songs himself on all occasions to all sorts of audience. He got, therefore, a young artist, Jayata by name, as an apprentice to himself whom he trained in the art of his music. He came to be known as "Kathaka" and his descendants have been the noted musicians of the district of Darbhanga, famous not only in Mithila but even beyond. They cultivated the indigenous music and propagated it, specially in Nepal. Abul Fazl in his *Ain-i-Akbari* mentions the Mithila school of music, i.e. the music of Vidyapati's songs at the head of the *Deshee* music. In the 18th century Lochana, himself a poet of no mean order, composed two works on the Maithil art of music of which one *Ragatarangini* has been published. Manuscripts of works on this art have been noticed in Nepal and they are works by Damodara and Vamsamani both of Mithila.

But since the middle of the 18th century, the Mithila school of music seems to have been eclipsed by the music of the Delhi school. Indigenous Mithila music was considered archaic and went out of fashion in the courts of the great patrons of the art. But so deeply has this art permeated through the life of the land that it was not dead. It was preserved intact by the women folk of Mithila and by the village folk specially the devotees who still keep it alive. It is a pleasure to hear women sing the songs in true Maithil fashion and they always sing in chorus without any instrument. There are songs for every festival, social and religious, there are songs for every season; and all these songs have their appropriate tunes which are based on *Raga* and *Tala* and which have

been coming down from the past, transmitted orally and learnt by the girls of every generation from the ladies of the old generation. It is only recently that film songs seem to have cast their influence on the young girls of the remote villages also and they have come to ignore their own traditional music. The state of things is really alarming and if this last citadel of Maithil music is stormed and lost, a great art will die.

Among the men folk also there have been connoisseurs of this art at all times. Even now there are in the countryside groups or parties who practise this art, always in chorus, with the accompaniment of *Mridanga* and *Jhali*. Such parties are now few and far between but they preserve the old tunes. There are, moreover, devotees of Shiva who sing the *Nacharia* and *Maheshabanis* with the accompaniment of *Damaru* only or with *Mridanga* and *Jhali*. They sing in the old traditional way.

Till about a quarter of a century ago, there was a dance party, called the *Kirataniya* party, which was very popular with the lovers of native music. The party sang the classical songs in *Ragas* and *Talas* in the true Maithil fashion, always in chorus with the accompaniment of *Mridanga* and *Jhali*. It is sad that this party has now completely disappeard and historians of Mathila's literature have come to call them the Drama party which it was not but was "Natua", the dancing party. There has never been a Maithil stage at least in living memory and no drama has ever been staged simply because there has been no Maithili drama before the end of last century. These *Kirataniya* parties did not stage a play but only sang the songs which the so-called Maithili Dramas contained.

Economic and Professional groups

This sub-section has been discussed in detail in the revised *District Gazetteer of Bhagalpur* and there is nothing particular in the district. The picture in this district is similar to that in Bhagalpur.

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

Land Reclamation and Utilisation

A brief history of the extension of cultivation will be of interest in this connection. The Survey and Settlement Report for Darbhanga district had dwelt on the matter (1896—1903) and the last District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907) had referred to it. The District Gazetteer of Darbhanga mentions:—

"A century ago a great part of Darbhanga was uncultivated partly owing to the desolation caused by the terrible famine of 1770, and partly because of the oppression of the farmers of revenue and the depredations of free-booting zamindars. So terribly did the former affect the people that in 1783 theCollector of Tirhut submitted a proposal that *cultivators should be attracted from the dominions of the Vizier of Oudh to reclaim the unpeopled wastes of his* district; and in 1781 the Judge reported that, owing to the tyranny of the local revenue officer and his subordinates, there was but very little cultivation for 20 miles from Darbhanga and that grass jungles appeared over extensive plains which before were rich in culture. In 1796 *pargana* Pachhi was described as the abode of dreadul beasts of prey, while the adjoining *parganas* of Alapur, now one of the richest parts of the district, was the haunt of wild elephants, whose depredations prevented all improvement. *Pargana* Bharwara, which comprises a considerable portion of the headquarters subdivision, where 78 per cent of the land is now under cultivation, contained large stretches of waste land; and in 1802 it was reported that for miles nothing could be seen but uncultivated plains with here and there a few *bighas* under the plough. When law and order were finally established agriculture was extended to a remarkable degree, and with what rapidity this happened can be gathered from a report submitted by the Collector in 1824. "In Tirhut proper", he wrote "the waste land at the time of settlement it is believed, considerably exceeded that under cultivation, and in some extensive parganas adjoining the Nepal Terai and those between the Telguja and the Daosi rivers in the north-eastern part of the district the cultivated land was to the waste, perhaps, as one to fifty. All these parganas are now considerably advanced in cultivation. Since the decennial settlement, cultivation has been improved and extended, and the population has increased in Tirhut in a manner that excites the wonder of those who do not reflect that such was the inevitable result of that measure."

"In the early part of the 19th century then a very large proportion of the district, amounting probably to half the total area, and in the north certainly to more than half, was uncultivated. By 1840 the cultivated area had increased to three-fifths of the total, but in the north it was still little more than half. During the next ten years, the cultivated area appears to have increased rapidly, until in 1850 it amounted probably to nearly three-fourths of the total. In 1875 it was estimated to be 79 per cent of the total; and the recent survey and settlement operations have shown that it is now just under 80 per cent of the total area of the district. We should probably therefore be justified in concluding that cultivation has nearly doubled itself within the last hundred years, but that the greater part of the increase took place in the first half of last century.

"The largest uncultivated area is in the headquarters subdivision, where there is a considerable amount of swamp and marsh, which is under water for the greater part of the year. It is nearly as great in the Madhubani subdivision where there is much culturable jungle along the banks of streams and on the Nepal frontier; and it amounts to 23 per cent of the total area in the Madhubani thana, where it is due to the large number of mango groves which strew the country; this tract is the stronghold of Brahmanism in Darbhanga, and many of the groves have been planted from religious motives. It is least (17 per cent) in the Samastipur subdivision, where there is less room for the extension of cultivation than in any other part of the district. It may appear somewhat remarkable that Samastipur under these circumstances shows a higher proportion of current fallow than Madhubani, but the reason is that the agricultural conditions of the two sub-divisions are radically different. Samastipur, as a whole, is marked by the careful cultivation of its rich uplands. Such lands require occasional rest, and the cultivators are intelligent enough to understand the advantage of allowing it to them But in Madhubani the lands are mainly low and produce but one crop in the year, and so the necessity for high cultivation does not arise. In a year of good rainfall no one would think of leaving rice lands fallow, and indeed, rice lands positively deteriorate when left uncultivated, as they become baked and hardened, the *ails* or partitions between the fields become broken, and the drains by which the land was irrigated get filled up or obliterated.

"The uncultivated area is one-fifth of the total area of the district; but about half of this is composed of roads, rivers, tanks, house-sites, etc., and is therefore not available

for cultivation. Of the area still available for cultivation about half is waste land, pure and simple; and much of it, being impregnated with the salt efflorescence known as *reh*, is unfit for cultivation in its present state. But in a district such as Darbhanga, where the cattle mainly depend upon grazing, it would probably be impossible to reduce the area of waste land to any appreciable extent ; for if the area still culturable were to be cultivated, there would be nothing left for the cattle to graze. There is thus but little room for the further extension of cultivation; the district is already densely populated; and there appear to be good grounds for the belief that it will at no distant date reach a point when it will no longer be able to support an increase in its population from the produce of the soil, without either a reduction in the standard of comfort or an increase in productive capacity".*

The cultivated area according to the Survey and Settlement Report (1896—1903) was 1,692,443 acres. According to the District Census Handbook for Darbhanga (1951) the cultivated area in recent years was as follows:—

	Acres**
1921	1,732,780
1931	1,680,340
1941	1,546,580
1951	1,565,560
(1951-52)	2,054,059

At the time of the last Settlement Operations (1896—1903), roughly 85 thousand acres were under orchards. This area had been reduced to about seventy-five thousand acres in 1951. The area of culturable wastes which amounted to 1.28 lakh acres in 1896—1903 was reduced by over fifty-five thousand acres. In the year 1949-50, the culturable wastes were classified as under :—

Description of culturable waste.	Area in thousand acres
Bush jungle	22
Kash Pater jungle	19
Flooded area	26
Water-logged area	4
	71

* District Gazetteer, Darbhanga (1907), p. 60—62.

** Average net area sown.

Thus in spite of the reduction in the areas under orchard and cultivable wastes due to extension of cultivation there has been a reduction of about 1.27 lakh acres since the last settlement. This is attributable in the main, to two factors : (1) an increase of about fifty thousand acres in the area not available for cultivation, due to construction of roads, and houses to cope with the increase of 29.4 per cent of population since 1901 ; (2) the ravages of the Kosi floods in the eastern portions of the district and (3) more spread of water-hyacinth rendering large tracts uncultivable. As a direct result of the second factor, current fallow which at the time of the last settlement amounted to only 18 thousand acres, now cover about 1.62 lakh acres*. It is difficult to fully explain the decline in the area of cultivated lands as we know that due to economic pressure even largo *chaurs* or water-logged areas and marginal lands have been put to the plough now. In some other Gazetteers we have seen the weak base of our statistics and any estimate based on what is known as "eye estimate" cannot be very accurate.

The details of classification of lands given in the last survey and Settlement Report (1896—1903) were as follows :—

Classification of areas (in acres).

Total area	21,16,930
Area cultivated	16,92,443
Area uncultivated	4,24,487
Details of uncultivated :—	
Current fallow ..	18,555
Culturable area other than current fallow	2,13,465
Unculturable	1,92,467
Bhadai	4,68,687
Aghani	16,60,096
Rabi	8,01,919
Twice cropped area	6,38,259
Mango groves	85,033

*District Census Handbook, Darbhanga, 1951, p. VI.

The statement below will show the classification of lands in thousand acres from 1952-53 to 1955-56*.

Classification.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
1	2	3	4	5
Forest	..	..	..	..
Not available for cultivation ..	3,48	4,02	3,71	2,95
Other uncultivated land excluding current fallow.	92	2,13	1,94	1,62
Current fallow	2,58	1,84	3,40	4,25
Net area sown	14,52	13,50	12,45	12,40
Total area of the district	21,50	21,50	21,50	21,50
Bhadai crops	3,97	2,60	1,18	1,37
Aghani crops	8,87	8,41	6,37	8,25
Rabi crops	5,33	5,44	4,55	4,58
Fruits	60	59	40	35
Potatoes	4	4	4	7
Vegetables including root crops ..	37	33	32	15
Total—Area sown ..	19,19	17,42	12,86	14,76
Area sown more than once ..	4,67	3,91	40	2,74

The total area of the district including house-sites, tanks, roads, etc., is 2.14 million acres and works out to 57 cents *per capita.* The average net area cultivated, based on the yearly average for the quinquennium ending 1949-50, is 1.57 million acres or roughly 73.1 per cent of the total land area. As much as 4.65 lakh acres or roughly 12.4 per cent of the total land area, are not available for cultivation being under homesteads, rivers, tanks, roads, unculturable jungles, etc., culturable wastes including area under orchards account for roughly 6.9 per cent, and current fallows for 7.6 per cent of the total land area. Rice is the principal crop and is grown over 49 per cent of the gross cultivated area. Other cereals and pulses together account for 37 per cent only. These exclude maize which is grown over 7 per cent of the gross area. An equal quantity of land is devoted to cash crops, principally

*Bihar Statistical Handbook, published by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Bihar.

sugarcane*. In the next quinquennium ending 1955-56 the position had obviously remained practically the same.

In the brochure, published by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics the more detailed classification of lands for 1956-57 had been given as follows** :—

(AREA IN THOUSANDS OF ACRES.)

Total area by village paper.	Land not available for cultivation.				Total.
	Forest.	Barren land.	Other land.	Gairmazarua land.	
21,50	..	28	2,74	..	3,02

Culturable Wasteland.

Permanent pasture and other grazing land.	Culturable waste other than fallow lands.	Other than fallow lands.	Current fallow.	Total.
5	1,64	20	1,97	3.86

Area sown.		Total area sown.	*Bhadai* crops.	*Aghani* crops.	*Rabi* crops.	*Garma* crops.	Orchard.
Net area sown (excluding orchards).	Area sown more than once						
14,19	1,59	15,78	2,24	8,75	4,32	49	42

WASTE LAND RECLAMATION

For the reclamation of culturable wastes the Bihar Waste Lands (Reclamation, Cultivation and Improvement) Act was passed in 1946. In Darbhanga since 1949 a Waste Land Reclamation Officer under the control of the District Magistrate has been working for reclamation of waste lands. He is also under the control of the Director of Waste Land Reclamation, Bihar, whose headquarters is at Patna. The department is under the Revenue Department.

Loans are advanced for the reclamation of culturable waste lands. The following statement will show the amount of Land

*District Census Handbook, Darbhanga, 1951.

**Bihar Statistical Handbook, 1956, pages, 34-35.

Improvement Loans and Agriculturist Loans distributed for reclamation of waste land and the area of waste land reclaimed :—

Year.		Amount of L.I. loans distributed.	Amount of agricultural loans distributed for purchase of tractors and other implements.	Area of waste land reclaimed by manual labour through assistance of L.I. loans.	Area of waste land reclaimed by State tractor.
1		2	3	4	5
		Rs.	Rs.	Acres.	Acres.
1948-49	..	6,491	..	120	..
1949-50	..	20,089	..	420	..
1950-51	..	66,745	79,000	552	216
1951-52	..	75,627	3,79,700	1,067	284
1952-53	..	1,04,161	99,000	1,558	..
1953-54	..	70,935	1,51,500	1,299	..
1954-55	..	93,702	1,50,000	1,612	..
1955-56	..	99,930	1,30,000	1,543	..
1956-57	..	8,830	94,400	602	..
1957-58	..	24,500	41,600	548	..
1958-59	..	27,560	45,000	1,072	..
1959-60	..	18,380	8,700	834	..
1960-61	..	45,000	21,500	1,051	..
Total	..	..	..	12,278	500*

An investigation indicates that there is hardly any enquiry to show that the area reported to be reclaimed is actually put to the plough or not. It is calculated more on a formula that a certain amount given as loan will reclaim so much of land. The amount of Land Improvement Loans or other loans also do not show separately what portion was actually given for land reclamation. Tractor reclamation cannot be satisfactory owing to the small holdings and the *kans*-infected areas which require special implements.

There is a vast belt of waste lands infected with *kans* and *pater* grass in Biraul, Madhepur, Phulparas and Kusheswarsthan Police thanas. Their reclamation can only be done by a tractor organisation under skilful guidance. There is a scheme to put this area under the State Tractor Organisation for reclamation.

IRRIGATION

General condition and rainfall

Artificial irrigation, although important had played a comparatively minor part in the agricultural economy of the district. The district of Darbhanga like the rest of other districts of North Bihar, is dependent for its crops on the local rainfall. The main

* The statement was supplied by the Waste Land Reclamation Officer, Darbhanga.

crop is the winter rice, which requires good rain at the end of May and the beginning of June, to facilitate the preparation of ground and the growth of seedlings. More rain is required in July and August for transplantation and without a good fall during the *Hathia* at the end of September and during the early part of October, the paddy withers away or does not produce a good yield. This normal distribution of rainfall also provides admirably for the crops of the *rabi* harvest, which are sown in October and November, and refreshed during the cold weather by seasonal showers.

Crops in this district are a gamble of nature and failure or premature cessation of rainfall is a disaster to the winter crops which is the main crop of the district.

The average rainfall in inches during different periods of the year from 1911-12 to 1955-56 for the district of Darbhanga is given below :—

Year.	Rainfall from 1st March to 31st May.	Rainfall from 1st June to 30th September.	Rainfall from 1st October to 30th November.	Rainfall from 1st December to 28th February.	Total rainfall during the year.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1911-12	5.30	53.78	4.22	0.24	63.54
1912-13	5.06	37.55	5.28	1.50	49.39
1913-14	5.28	56.05	1.80	1.75	54.88
1914-15	4.89	40.49	0.40	2.17	47.95
1915-16	5.89	46.05	3.83	0.72	56.50
1916-17	2.50	60.37	2.68	0.37	66.33
1917-18	4.59	30.40	2.44	..	37.43
1918-19	5.92	47.65	1.36	1.08	56.01
1919-20	2.42	37.30	2.23	0.85	42.89
1920-21	2.24	42.89	0.46	1.27	46.86
1921-22	1.47	48.58	0.49	1.708	52.27
1922-23	0.69	54.28	0.45	2.25	57.47
1923-24	2.55	25.99	2.78	0.25	31.57
1924-25	3.32	47.72	3.96	0.19	55.09
1925-26	4.14	45.46	0.91	0.55	51.06
1926-27	3.68	47.15	0.32	1.59	52.75
1927-28	3.56	36.15	2.11	1.22	43.04
1928-29	4.14	39.55	4.97	1.49	50.15
1929-30	2.32	33.47	11.88	2.27	49.94
1930-31	2.69	36.63	1.38	1.11	41.81
1931-32	2.74	44.06	3.56	0.10	50.46
1932-33	1.72	33.93	4.53	1.61	41.63
1933-34	6.05	46.04	4.06	1.75	57.90
1934-35	1.10	43.54	2.79	1.18	48.61
1935-36	1.45	47.86	0.21	0.24	49.76
1936-37	5.09	60.15	1.60	2.75	69.59
1937-38	7.18	39.78	10.61	0.84	58.41
1938-39	6.18	52.90	1.22	1.65	61.95
1939-40	2.18	41.94	3.39	2.01	49.52
1940-41	5.61	32.85	0.01	0.72	39.11
1941-42	4.36	44.24	0.89	2.33	51.81
1942-43	3.01	42.93	0.58	1.56	47.93
1943-44	4.19	41.19	1.49	1.34	48.01
1944-45	5.80	37.48	0.56	2.67	46.51

Year.		Rainfall from 1st March to 31st May.	Rainfall from 1st June to 30th September.	Rainfall from 1st October to 30th November.	Rainfall from 1st December to 28th February.	Total rainfall during the year.
1		2	3	4	5	6
1945-46	..	6.16	36.83	6.96	0.78	50.68
1946-47	..	6.18	39.56	4.16	0.42	50.32
1947-48	..	5.15	40.19	3.02	0.20	48.56
1948-49	..	..	..	..	..	46.55
1949-50	..	..	.	..	..	57.45
1950-51	..	..	..	..	..	38.04
1951-52	..	..	..	..	..	39.37
1952-53	..	..	..	..	..	45.88
1953-54	..	..	..	..	..	50.45
1954-55	..	..	..	..	..	43.71
1955-56	..	..	..	..	..	54.79

It will be seen that rainfall had not always been normal and well-distributed. This brings in the need for artificial irrigation.

The main sources of irrigation in the north of the district, were tanks, *chaurs* and streams but in the event of dry season they will naturally fail when they were most wanted. That is why the irrigated area in the district was very small. The following chart given in the last Survey and Settlement Report (1896—1903) will show the break-up figures of the irrigated area vis-a-vis the net cropped areas of the district:—

(Area in Acres.)*

Subdivision.		Net cropped area.	Irrigated area.	Irrigated from wells.	Irrigated from private canals.	Irrigated from tanks and *ahars*.	Irrigated from other sources.	Number of wells.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Madhubani	..	6,83,357	98,060	699	3,143	44,964	49,254	7,431
2 Sadar	..	6,13,868	2,930	73	18	1,056	1,783	4,896
3. Samastipur	..	3,95,218	8,401	5,894	..	873	1,634	7,379
District Total	..	16,92,443	1,09,391	6,666	3,161	46,893	52,671	19,706

*Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Darbhanga District (1896—1903) by J.H. Kerr. p. 89

Mr. O'Malley in the last District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907) observes :—

"There are no Government irrigation works, but an area of 171 square miles or 6½ per cent of the cultivated area is irrigated from other sources. Most of this area lies in the north of the district, where irrigation is devoted to food crops, whereas in the south it is reserved for the special and highly cultivated non-food crops. Here extensive irrigation is not practicable, owing to the scanty sources of supply, nor it is greatly required for the crops mainly grown. There is a prejudice against well-irrigation, as it is believed that land once artificially irrigated must always be irrigated. This belief is probably to a certain extent well founded : for in the soils prevailing in this area, irrigation forms a crust below the surface, which impairs the fertility of the land, unless irrigation is continued every year. Hence irrigation is only practised on lands near wells, and these lands are reserved for the more valuable crops. Irrigation once begun must be continued and though it may result in a good return through the production of more valuable crops than can be raised on unirrigated lands, it entails an amount of labour and expense from which the majority of cultivators are averse.

"Artificial irrigation is most practised in the Madhubani subdivision to the north of the district. Here the numerous streams and rivers which intersect the country are utilised for the supply of water to the winter rice crop, especially in the Khajauli and Phulparas thanas : and in the Benipatti thana nearly one-third of the net cropped area is irrigated from a complete system of *pains* or artificial channels led off from the Kamla river. These *pains*, for many of which the old beds of the Kamla were utilized, were constructed during the famine of 1897 by the energy and foresight of Mr. King, the Sub-Manager of the Rohika Circle of the Darbhanga Raj ; and they were the means of saving 30,000 acres of winter rice during the partial failure of the monsoon in 1901. In the area covered by these channels the outturn of winter rice in that year was 80 per cent as against 30 per cent on the west, 21 per cent on the east and 19 per cent on the south. Besides these sources of supply, tanks are very largely used all over the subdivision for the irrigation of the fields in their neighbourhood, either to expedite the transplantation of the winter rice seedlings or to prevent them from withering during a break in the rains.

"In the headquarters subdivision, the main sources of irrigation are the same as in Madhubani, but the area irrigated is very much less. Most of the Madhubani-streams join the larger rivers before they reach this subdivision ; and the latter are too large to permit of their being used for irrigation by the simple and inexpensive means adopted by the Madhubani cultivators. Tanks are also less numerous, and the ryots being less familiar with irrigation than

their fellows in Madhubani, make less use of such tanks as there are.

"Little, therefore, can be done in the way of extending irrigation in this part of the district owing to the scanty sources of supply; and this is the more unfortunate, because it is this area which, as a rule, suffers most severely in case of failure of the winter rice crop. In the north of the district many opportunities exist for the extension of irrigation on a comparatively large scale, but here a great difficulty is presented by the danger that the supply of water would be cut off in Nepal at the time when it is most necessary. The question is further complicated by the fact that, in years of normal rainfall, irrigation is little practised or required. The water, which, in a year of drought, is priceless is in an ordinary year a superfluity; and in a dry year, when irrigation is most wanted, there is a scanty supply of water in the tanks and streams. All irrigation projects in Madhubani, accordingly, suffer from the defect that they would be little used in ordinary years, while in dry years they would benefit a comparatively small area. Hence large irrigation works are probably financially impossible, and any extension of irrigation must be looked for, mainly in the direction of increasing the usefulness of the present sources of supply by some cheap and efficient system, such as that which has already proved so successfuly in Benipati. Well irrigation is practically useless for winter rice, owing to the small area commanded by each well, and no wells would stand in an area so liable to inundation. But tanks can already irrigate 45,000 acres in the subdivision, and rivers and channels nearly 50,000 acres. It would probably be possible to improve the manner in which these two sources of irrigation are used, at cost which would be insignificant in comparison with the advantage to be gained, and this would go far to render a large part of the area secure against a failure of the monsoon."*

Some of the major irrigation projects may be described.

Kamla or King Canal.—In 1901 on advice of Mr. King an irrigation channel was dug from the river Kamla at Narkatia from the river course then flowing through the so called Bachhraj *dhar*. The cost of the work was about Rs. 50,000 and an approximate area of 30,000 acres was sought to be irrigated. This canal unfortunately did not function well and was abandoned. In 1906 the district was ravaged by famine and on agitation of the people fresh investigation was started for Kamla Canal Project by Mr. Sibold, the Special Executive Engineer. Mr. Sibold prepared a scheme almost on the basis of the previous schemes and there was again a failure.

*District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907). p.p. 51—53.

In 1950 a 10 feet wide canal was dug along the old alignment of King canal but it got silted soon. The canal dug in 1950 did not conform to any designed bed slope and the main feeder of the canal, i.e., the Bachhraj *dhar* did not have a perennial source of adequate water supply to the canal and so after the rainy season the canal was useless.

On the initiative of the Government, the Irrigation Department took up the scheme as "Re-excavation of King's Canal" in 1951. Since there was scarcity of water in the Bachhraj *dhar*, it was proposed to link this canal with the river Kamla to a point north of Jayanagar at the estimated cost of Rs. 17 lakhs. As the canal was to take off from the river Kamla it came to be known as Kamla canal.

But unfortunately the district suffered severely due to drought in 1951 and the attention of the Government had to be diverted towards relief operations and so the work of the Kamla Canal slumped. As a famine relief measure the re-excavation of the canal was taken up in 1951 and was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. In the drought of 1951 a big area of paddy was irrigated through this canal in September, 1951, owing to the suddden rise in the Bachhraj *dhar* which was made to pass through the newly dug incomplete canal as an emergent measure. In September-October of the same year a *Katcha bundh* was constructed across the river Bachhraj at a moderate cost of Rs. 1,000 to save the standing crops in Benipatti thana and all the available supply was diverted into the Kamla canal. Irrigation was done to the extent of about 2,200 acres of *rabi* and paddy fields in 1951. In 1954 the river Bachhraj was bounded to feed the Kamla canal but the supply of water was so meagre that it hardly irrigated more than 50 acres.

In 1954 it was proposed to excavate an inundation canal from the river Kamla north of Jaynagar* and join it to the excavated Kamla canal near Narkatia by passing the Bachhraj *dhar*. Accordingly more earthwork was to be done but it saved the construction of a diversion weir and a head sluice in the Bachhraj.

Under the revised scheme of 1954 it was estimated that the total area likley to be benefited would come to about 37,400 acres. It was found that for an inundation canal taking off from a river of meandering nature, it was not possible to fix an ideal site for its off-take and as such feeder channels had to be dug annually from the active course of the river to the head sluice works. Construction of a head regulator was also necessary for if it was not constructed, an uncontrolled amount of silt would enter into the course of the canal and choke up. Since the off-take of the canal falls in the hilly region, the flood water would enter and spoil the canal in the lower reaches. The site at the Indo-Nepal border

*This place is also spelt as Jainagar and Jayanagar.

once selected became unsuitable due to erosion. As the river where it debouches into plain has steep grade, it brings heavy silt load from Nepal hills. The diminishing of the velocity with the flattening of the grade brings in a huge deposit of silt in its upper reaches. To exclude the silt from entering into the canal a head regulator was proposed in order to tap surface water in the canal and for shuttering the canal when the silt load in water is above permissible limit.

The distribution system consisting of three sets of parallel channels, viz., Inwara, Narkatia and Marhia were constructed as feeders of the main canal. The canal which was started in 1951 was completed in 1958 at an estimated cost of Rs. 28,02,144. The total length of the canal is 25 miles and commands an area of 37,400 acres. But after the completion of the canal it could only irrigate a very small acreage, much below its estimated target. The total irrigated area in 1959-60 was 1,130 acres, in 1960-61 1,500 acres and in 1961-62 it was 2,160 acres only.

The reasons for the failure of the expectations are reported to be the shifting of the course of the Kamla and consequently an inadequate supply of water in the inundation canal due to the huge deposit of silt in the mouth of the main canal. To overcome the vagaries of the river Kamla an anicut or weir known as Kamla Weir Scheme was started in 1959 at an estimated cost of Rs. 48,67,130. The work is in progress (1961). It is expected that after the completion of the weir the canal will get a perennial supply of adequate water.

Balan Irrigation Scheme.—The river Balan comes from the hills of Nepal and has a catchment area of about 40 square miles. It has a perennial flow but brings in a huge quantity of sand. The previous method of irrigation consisted in putting in *katcha* bunds during low flow in the river.

The Balan Irrigation Scheme was started in April, 1958 and is now in execution (1961). The scheme implemented will be a canal of about 6 miles in Ladania and Laukaha thanas in Madhubani Subdivision. It is proposed to have through this scheme irrigational facilities for an area of about 3,600 acres. A barrage of 12 spans of 10 feet each with a gate of 6 feet 9 inches height has been constructed about 1,700 feet below the Indo-Nepal border. The estimated cost is Rs. 4,61,370.

Trisula Irrigation Scheme.—The river Trisula rises from the hills in Nepal, has a catchment area of about 25 square miles and usually dries up in January or February. The old practice was to tap the water of the river when low by putting in *katcha* bundhs. Just upstream of the proposed site, a *katcha* bundh used to be erected every year for diverting the water to a number of villages.

This bundh used to get breached very often and winter rice would fail. It was therefore proposed to have a diversion weir at *katcha* bundh side which will assure irrigational facilities to an area of about 3,600 acres. The scheme was taken up in 1958 at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,61,370. The work is under execution (1961).

Kamla Weir Scheme.—The Kamla Weir Scheme was started in 1959 at the estimated cost of Rs. 48,67,130. This will feed the existing Kamla canal and after its construction the commandable area will increase to 75,000 acres. This work will go over to the Third Five-Year Plan period. Construction of a separate canal system from the weir will form another part of the project and will be taken up for execution in the Third Plan period.

Tube-wells.—Tube-wells are also useful for irrigation. The total number of tube-wells sunk for irrigational purposes was only 300 in 1961. It was estimated that 3,959 acres of land were irrigated from these tube-wells. The number of tube-wells is inadequate and they are not very popular either.

Minor Irrigation Schemes.—The topography of the district and the economic resources of the population emphasise the need for the implementation of the Minor Irrigation Schemes which are cheaper and of more local importance. As a matter of fact, it is the Minor Irrigation Schemes that had sustained the agricultural economy of the district in the past when major schemes costing lakhs were not even visualised. They consist of excavating minor *ahars*, constructing pynes and bundhs, sinking of ordinary surface wells, etc. Such schemes could be quickly implemented and they cost much less and do not require much of technical skill.

In the wake of the last Great War when there was a spiral rise in the prices of essential commodities, there was an intensive campaign for growing more of food crops and the importance of Minor Irrigation Schemes was underlined. A severe drought in 1951-52 further emphasised the need for such Minor Irrigation Schemes and a number of minor *ahars* and pynes were completed and percolation wells were sunk.

The Minor Irrigation Schemes are executed under three agencies of State Government, namely, Revenue, Agriculture and Irrigation Departments. There appears to be a certain amount of lack of co-ordination among these agencies and it was often found that one agency did not know what the other agency was engaged in. According to Bihar Statistical Handbook of 1956 at page 45 it appears that in 1955-56 the number of schemes taken up is 194 out of which only 66 were completed. The amount allotted for the scheme was Rs. 2,00,000 out of which Rs. 1,99,887 were spent.

The Minor Irrigation Section of the Darbhanga Collectorate has supplied the following table giving the details of the Minor Irrigation since 1952-53 :—

Year.			Total number of schemes completed.	Total amount spent (in rupees).	Total area benefited (in acres).
1952-53	..	..	108	1,58,191	22,265
1953-54	..	..	59	1,22,266	940
1954-55	..	..	129	2,44,993	11,642
1955-56	..	.	93	1,99,886	5,794
1956-57	..	.	51	1,28,890	9,895
1957-58	..	..	45	73,893	7,519
1958-59	..	..	50	18,893	15,526
1959-60	..	..	1	1,673	1,000
1960-61	..	..	Not available.	Not available.	Not available.
1961-62	..	..	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.

The discrepancy in the number of schemes completed in 1955-56 between the statement published in Bihar Statistical Handbook, 1956 and that supplied by the Collectorate is very suggestive. It is unfortunate that such discrepant statistics should be maintained and published by different agencies of the State Government. An attempt to get the data given by the Collectorate verified had failed as the location of the schemes said to be completed in different years was not readily available. The total area said to be benefited also could not be checked up. It is unfortunate that the Minor Irrigation Section of the Darbhanga Collectorate could not supply some of the data in the above chart for 1960-61 and 1961-62.

Protective Bundhs and Embankments.

Darbhanga is a riverine district. The devastation of crops by floods is an usual feature here. But drought is also not uncommon. Previously during the regime of the Zamindars the indigenous pynes, *ahars*, channels and bundhs, etc., were constructed by them to save the crops from the ravages of both flood and drought. This indigenous system of protective bundhs was found useful against

drought and flood. Regarding protective schemes the last District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907)* mentions as follows :—

"Various projects have been put forward with the object of affording protection to the cultivators from the variability of the seasons. One is to establish irrigation works on the Dhaus, a minor river flowing from Nepal into the north-western corner of the district, a tract which was severely affected in 1897. This scheme is however open to the objection that the Nepalese dam up the river, and that though the ryots might take the water in ordinary years, they would certainly object to paying for it. The supply of water is small, and it is liable to be cut off by the Nepalese, just when it might be wanted. Another and larger project is that of providing irrigation from the Kamla by a main canal 12½ mile long, with three distributaries, which would command an area of 460 square miles. The cost of the project, which was first proposed in 1877, was estimated at Rs. 10,41,000 and the area likely to be irrigated at 52,500acres. The Irrigation Commission(1901-03)recommended that a detailed estimate of this scheme should be prepared, and that if the cost per acre was not much greater than was anticipated, or not more than Rs. 25 an acre, it should be sanctioned and put in hand as soon as funds could be made available. In doing so, they remarked ;—"In view of the severe distress to which the densely populated districts of Northern Bihar are subjected whenever there is a failure of the autumn rains, and of the means of reliable protection that are available, we are unwilling to admit that the cost of protection will exceed its value until the matter has been put to a crucial test. Such a test the construction of the Kamla project will afford at a moderate cost." Estimates are now being prepared ; but the district seems to suffer nearly as much from flood as from drought, and it seems doubtful therefore if irrigation works with permanent head-works will be worth their cost. The project, the cost of which is roughly estimated at 14½ lakhs, will provide for the irrigation in a very dry year of about 30,000 acres of rice and 10,000 acres of *rabi ;* but it is probable that in a moderately dry year the area of rice irrigable would be greater, while in an ordinary year there would be little or no demand for water. The country which would be commanded is liable to flood, and there are difficulties in finding a suitable site for permanent head-works ; and, besides this, there is a risk of the river changing its course and leaving the head-works high and dry.

"Another means of protecting the people from the effects of drought consists of the extension of the system of *pains*

*District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907), pp. 78-79.

or private channels led off from the rivers, which has been instituted with such success by Mr. R. S. King in the Darbhanga Raj. Regarding this method of protection, the Indian Irrigation Commission remark : "The excellent results show how much can be done, by active and energetic officers of long local experience, to utilize the available water-supply in seasons of drought by temporary and comparatively inexpensive expedients adapted to the exigencies of the moment. We think it almost certain that a great deal could be done at a comparatively small expense, and at a cost that would fall far below the net cost to the State of any ambitious system of permanent works; if in seasons of drought prompt measures could be taken for throwing earthen dams across the principal streams at the earliest possible moment, and for diverting the water through the net-work of channels already existing."

Chaur Drainage Schemes.

Chaurs are low tracts of land which remain water-logged for six to nine months in a year. There are a number of such *chaurs* in this district. They are useless for growing crops as such and also breed mosquitoes. The Irrigation Department has taken the *chaur* drainage schemes to make the existing *chaurs* fit for cultivation. The details of some of the important *chaurs* are given below :—

Kanail chaur.—The Kanail and Arai *chaurs* remain water-logged for nine months in the year for want of effective drainage channel. In 1951 the bed of the channel was desilted and regarded to drain out the water-logged area to an extent of 2,560 acres at the estimated cost of Rs. 57,379.

Singia group chaurs.—The Singia group of *chaurs* falls in Jale thana and affect a number of villages. To drain these *chaurs* in the river Khiroi, a drainage channel which falls in Nasu in the village Jahangir tola has been constructed. The estimated cost of the channel is Rs. 39,913 which will bring under cultivation 1,389 acres of land.

Madhubani chaurs.—*Chaurs* of Mangrauni, Chakdah, Ranti, etc., which are in the vicinity of Madhubani town remain water-logged throughout the year and spread malaria. Channels were dug up connecting all these low lands with river Kamla in order to draw silt laden water during high flood. Thus the low areas were almost filled up by heavy silt deposit. The estimated cost of the tapping of channel was Rs. 2,40,000 and the area benefited is about 7,650 acres. The scheme was completed in 1959.

Kansaur chaur.—The Kansaur *chaur* in Darbhanga thana remains water-logged for the most part of the year. The existing

Nasi channel had been re-sectioned and regraded. A sluice with marginal embankments along the Nasi had been constructed. The estimated cost of this drainage scheme is Rs. 1,29,696 and the area to be benefited will be about 2,560 acres.

Khaira chaur.—This *chaur* remaining water-logged for most part of the year also falls in Darbhanga thana. The Khaira *chaur* drainage scheme was started in 1957 at the estimated cost of Rs. 99,552. A scheme was prepared for construction of an anti-flood sluice to prevent river water entering into the *chaur*. The *chaur* is subject to inundation every year by the spill of the river Kamla (Gausaghat branch) which usually destroys the standing crops. Hence an anti-flood sluice was also made in the estimate. The existing channel is being excavated with designed section of 28 feet base width with side slope to cope with the discharge to drain the *chaur* easily. The work is still in execution.

EMBANKMENTS.

The embankments were peviously constructed either by the voluntary labours of the villagers or by the initiative of the landlords. There were a good number of private embankments which were constructed as protection against floods for local needs. These private embankments were partially useful but on account of their faulty construction they were unable to serve much purpose in case of high flood discharge and frequently caused much damage to crops and dwelling houses. It is reported that in flood of 1953 the private embankments were responsible for high devastation. That is why it was suggested in the North Bihar Food Report, 1953, after a survey by the Irrigation Department that the existing private embankments should be dismantled. The construction of parallel marginal embankment with sufficient inlets and outlets was also suggested in the report. Some major embankments have been now constructed or are in execution under the flood control schemes launched by the Irrigation Department. The details of some of the important embankments are given below :—

Kamla-Balan Embankments.—The Kamla rising from the Himalayan range enters Darbhanga at Jayanagar. Its discharge carries heavy sediment load and as a result it has been constantly swinging and shifting its original course. Its abandoned courses are found all over the district, the important being the Jiwachh branch of Kamla, Patghat branch and the Sakri branch of Kamla. In 1954 it was responsible for a major flood and almost abandoned its original course and diverted into river Balan.

The inundation of the Kamla has been the usual feature annually. The devastating flood of 1954 led the State Government to take immediate flood control measures. It was decided to construct a marginal embankment from Indo-Nepal border down to the

river. As such the Kamla-Balan embankment scheme from Nepal border to Jhanjharpur was taken in 1956 and was almost completed in 1959. The length of the river side embankment is 32½ miles. The left side embankment starts from Indo-Nepal border and ends at Bhakua for a length of 7½ miles and from Jhanjharpur to village Pirhi for a length of about 19 miles in separate stretches. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 1,11,67,374 and the protected area 40,960 acres. Some items of work will spill over the Third Five-Year Plan with an anticipated expenditure of Rs. 18,56,823.

The Kamla-Balan embankment scheme below Jhanjharpur has also been started in November, 1960, at an estimated cost of Rs. 33,97,922. It will cover a length of about 27 miles.

Baghmati Embankment (left).—The Baghmati enters Darbhanga district few miles upstream of Kaulungarghat. In this district it is joined by its tributaries like the Darbhanga-Baghmati and old Kamla near Sirsia and Phuhia. The Baghmati has a stable course from Hayaghat downstream and does not carve out new courses. The previous existing embankments which were constructed through local efforts could not stand the high flood discharge and the spill water used to enter the villages through gaps, and often inundated them. Hence a marginal embankment of a length of 39 miles nearly from Hayaghat to Sirsia was proposed to be constructed in 1956. The work has by now (1961) been almost completed except some minor finishing items which will spill over to the Third Five-Year Plan period. The estimated cost of this scheme is Rs. 84,96,512 and the area benefited about 40,300 acres.

In January, 1961 an extension scheme was started to extend the left Baghmati Embankment Scheme from Sirsia to Phuhia, adistance of about 8.25 miles. The estimated cost of the extension scheme is Rs. 16,19,970.

Baghmati Embankment (right).—A marginal embankment on the right side of the river Baghmati (Karah) was also started to be constructed in 1956 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,21,35,000 and the area benefited by the scheme comes to 55,500 acres. The length of the embankment is about 50 miles extending from Hayaghat to Karachin. The work has almost completed except some small items which will spill over Third Plan period with cost of Rs. 30,72,994.

The right embankment of the Baghmati has now (January, 1961) been proposed to be extended from Karachin to Badlaghat.

Khiroi Embankment.—The Adhwara group of rivers, viz., Jhim-Adhwara-Jamura-Sikao ; Burhand group, Singhi-Marha-Rato group; and Dhaus-Thomane and Darbhanga-Baghmati group, are drained

through two channels, Khiroi and Darbhanga-Baghmati. The Darbhanga-Baghmati has a good deep section but the Khiroi which runs through valley had a narrow and shallow section and its spill water used to cause flood. Therefore, in 1955 it was proposed that it should be resectioned and regraded to pass out the flood discharge. The protective spills have also been provided. The scheme covers a length of 69 miles at the estimated cost of Rs. 65,01,340. The scheme is almost completed except the minor finishing work. The area benefited is about 68,500 acres.

The resume of the irrigational facilities that are being provided will naturally give the idea that the quantity of the irrigated area in this district must be going up. It is correct that irrigational facilities may not be tapped if there has been a proper and well distributed rainfall. The frequent years of drought and the common aspect of crop failures indicate that there has not been proper rainfall nor it is well distributed. The chart of rainfall from 1911-12 to 1955-56 that has been given elsewhere also shows that rainfall varied from near about 31 inches to 69 inches. The distribution has also varied widely. There is no reason to think that the irrigational facilities provided would not be utilised.

The following chart from Government brochures gives the acreage of the irrigated area from 1951-52 to 1956-57. The figures are rather peculiar. The total area irrigated has been on the decline from 1951 to 1954 and from 87,461 acres it fell down to 4,000 acres. In 1954 to 1955 there was a jump to 29,000 acres and the increase is due to 26,000 acres irrigated by tanks. In 1955-56 the figure dropped to 5,000 acres. The data in many of the columns were obviously not available but it was not mentioned clearly if the figures were available or not. The irresistible conclusion should be that not much importance can be attached to those figures of Bihar Statistical Handbooks.

Irrigated area in acres through different sources in the district from 1951-52 to 1956-57.

Year.	Government canals.	Private canals.	Tanks.	Wells.	Other sources	Total area irrigated.
1951-52 ..	..	1,431	9,138	48,764	28,128	87,461
1952-53 ..	..	..	6,000	..	..	6,000
1953-54 ..	..	..	4,000	Negligible	.	4,000
1954-55 ..	..	..	26,000	Ditto.	3,000	29,000
1955-56 ..	..	..	..	..	4,000	5,000
1956-57 ..	.	..	..	..	..	..

SOURCES.— (i) Department of Agriculture, Bihar, Annual Report, 1951-52.
(ii) Bihar Statistical Handbooks, 1953, 1955 and 1956, published by Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Bihar (Patna).

Kosi Project.

A brief history of the river Kosi will be of interest to appreciate the Kosi problems for which the Kosi Project came into being in 1955. The Kosi rises in Tibet, at an altitude of 18,000 feet and flows through Nepal and Bihar before it joins the Ganga near Kursela in Purnea district. The interlacing channels of the Kosi, Bihar's "River of Sorrow", have in a lateral movement shifted about 70 miles westward in the last 150 years, laying waste about 8,000 square miles of land in Bihar and Nepal. Tumbling down its hilly catchment laden with coarse sand the Kosi emerges from the Himalaya gorges at Chatra in Nepal. As it winds its way through the flat plains lower down, it deposits the coarse sand raising its bed, and breaks its banks to form new channels. The present Kosi belt, before it had been chosen by the fitful river as its playground, was considered the garden of Bihar, renowned for its rice-fields and orchards. Now it has a desolate look with vast streches of sand, marshes and barren shrubs.

So far as Darbhanga district is concerned it appears that the Kosi, which was so long flowing through the district of Bhagalpur (now Saharsa) joined the Tiljuga in 1941 on the north-eastern corner comprising Biraul, Madhepur, Phulparas and Laukahi police-stations. South of the Nirmali-Darbhanga railway line the river caused wide depression through the Tiljuga and the Balan where conditions were favourable for a westerly movement. Since 1941 the main Kosi channel is flowing more or less through existing course and the bulk of the Kosi water flows through the Tiljuga, the Majhari and the Lagunia-channels. The shifting of the Kosi as stated before threatened the north-eastern part of the Darbhanga district and floods became the usual annual feature. As gathered the water of the Kosi started spilling and submerging about 1,25,000 acres of land during floods in Darbhanga district. It deposited coarse sand on fairly large portion of fertile lands of the district. The annual loss in terms of money was considerable. The flood water not only damaged the standing paddy crops but sometimes human lives and cattle were also lost in the swirling current of the Kosi. In 1954 the flood water of the Kosi caused widespread damages to a large number of villages including Tardiha, Matras, Karhara, Hatni, etc. in Madhepur police-station. A considerable number of dwelling houses were swept away in the swift current.

Under the Kosi Project a Rs. 440 millions scheme to tame and train the turbulent Kosi and convert it into an asset, was taken up for execution in January, 1955. The scheme comprises of (1) Flood embankments on both banks of the river, (2) Construction of a barrage to make water available for irrigation purpose as also to do gradient control upstream, and (3) Canals for irrigation.

The two embankments on both sides of the river of about 75 miles each have already been constructed to confine the river within a stretch of 3 to 10 miles. The construction of barrage and canals is under way and is likely to be completed by 1963. A fair portion of the western Kosi Embankment falls in Darbhanga district. It starts from Bharda in Nepal territory and after running about 9½ miles in Nepal it enters Saharsa district near the village Kanauli. After passing for about 5 miles in Saharsa the embankment enters into Darbhanga district near village Theho and after running for about 14.5 miles it again enters Saharsa district near the village Piprahi. Again from Ghoghardiha the embankment passes through Darbhanga district for about 36 miles up to the existing end point at Bhanthi.

The details of the portion of the Western Kosi embankment within Darbhanga district are as follows:—

From Piprahi to Tiljuga—The construction work of this part of the Western Kosi embankment was started on the 14th January, 1955 and completed in 1957. Earthwork to the tune of about 10.44 crore cft. had to be done at the total cost of approximately Rs. 75 lakhs. From Piprahi to Tiljuga near Theho the embankment comes to about 14.5 miles. About 28,000 acres of cultivable lands have been protected by the embankment. The total number of sluice gates from Piprahi to Tiljuga is 12. The sluice gates have been constructed to drain out the flood and rain water.

From Ghoghardiha to Bhanthi.—After Piprahi as stated before the Western Kosi embankment passes in Saharsa district up to Nirmali. A ring bundh has been constructed to protect Nirmali from the floods of the Kosi river. From Nirmali to Ghoghardiha a distance of about 7 miles there is no embankment but the railway embankment with Bhutahi Balan marginal embankment protects the area from floods of the Kosi. After a gap of about 7 miles, the Western Kosi embankment starts from Ghoghardiha and terminates at Bhanthi; the distance of the embankment in Darbhanga district is about 36 miles. The construction of this part of the embankment was started in 1956 and completed in 1958. Approximately 22 crore cft. of earthwork had to be done at a cost of about Rs. 1.90 crores. The protected area comes to about 72,000 acres. There is one sluice at Goraul in 29th mile of the embankment to drain out the accumulated water of a big *chaur* lying on the country-side of the embankment.

Mahadeo Math Ring Bundh.—A ring bundh has been constructed at Mahadeo Math. The length of the ring bundh

comes to about 2.3. miles. The work was started in 1955 and completed in 1957. Earthwork to the tune of 1.80 crores cft. had been done at the cost of about Rs. 5.24 lakhs. It gives protection to about 400 acres of land.

Bhutahi-Balan Marginal Embankment.—The Bhutahi-Balan, a river with wide shifting sandy bed liable to heavy floods flows north of Phulparas thana. Though it practically remains dry during a great part of the year yet in rainy season it frequently inundates a fairly large area. In order to offer relief from its floods to some extent as also from the back water of the Kosi coming through the railway bridge between Nirmali and Ghoghardiha a marginal embankment extending about 2 miles has been constructed. The work was started in 1956 and completed in 1957. The total cost comes to about Rs. 5 lakhs for earthwork of about 1.50 crores cft. About 1,000 acres have been protected from inundation by this embankment. One sluice gate has been constructed for local drainage.

The construction of the Kosi embankment in Darbhanga district has beneficial effect on agriculture. As stated before the Kosi floods usually submerged about 125,000 acres of land in Darbhanga district. After construction of Western Kosi embankment about one lakh acres of cultivable lands have been protected from the ravages of the Kosi. The remaining about 25,000 acres of land are within the Kosi embankment. Besides agriculture the construction of the embankment had produced salutary effect on sanitation and health of the inhabitants. After embankment, water-logging has been controlled to a great extent. The incidence of malaria, Kala-azar and stomach troubles had appreciably decreased.

Recently one service road has been constructed by the Project Administration by the side of the embankment. This road is exclusively for the use of the public.

The Western Kosi Canal.—For the utilisation of the irrigation potential created by the construction of the Kosi barrage it was decided to take action for the Western Kosi Canal Scheme. Preliminary survey, accordingly was conducted during 1959—61. Longitudinal section had been taken and canal design completed. Earthwork for the main canal has been calculated in detail.

The western canal is proposed to take off from the Kosi barrage. According to the proposed scheme the canal will flow in the westerly direction and after passing through the Saptari district of Nepal, it will enter the Indian territory near Mahadeva in Darbhanga district. It will go about a mile north of Laukahi and cross the Bhutahi-Balan near Ekmina. Then it will pass through Barail about 2 miles south of Babu Barhi and cross the Kamala near

Bhukwa and the Darbhanga—Jaynagar railway line about one mile north of Khajauli railway station. Further it will pass along the villages Narar, Malmal, Negwas and Akhaur and cross the Darbhanga—Jaynagar Public Works Department road at three miles north of Kaluahi and finally drop in the river Thomane, a tributary of the Dhaus about 4 miles north of Benipatti.

The total length of the western Kosi canal will be 70 miles out of which about 20 miles will fall in Sapatari district of Nepal and the rest 50 miles in Darbhanga district of Bihar. The salient features of the design of the canal are as follows:—

Length	70 miles.
Working head at Head Regulator	1.0 foot.
Full supply level of canal	244.00 feet.
Discharge through Regulator	70.00 cusecs.
Full supply depth at head	9′ –6″
Gross command area	9.76 lakh acres.
Culturable command area	6.45 lakh acres.
Irrigable area	8.3 lakh acres.

Out of the gross command area about 9,40,000 acres will be in Darbhanga district and the remaining 36,000 acres in Saptari district of Nepal. The estimated cost of this canal is Rs. 12.50 crores and will spill over the Third Five-Year Plan period.*

AGRICULTURE INCLUDING HORTICULTURE

Soils

Regarding soils the last District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907) had mentioned as follows:—

"The soils of the district may be divided into three kinds, *balsundri*, a sandy loam; *bangar* or *chikna*, a clayey soil with an admixture of sand; and *matiyari*, a clay soil with little or no sand. The three main classes correspond roughly with the three physical divisions of the district. *Balsundri* is the prevailing soil of the little Gandak in the thanas of Samastipur and Dalsingh-Sarai. The *doab* between the Baghmati and the Gandak, corresponding roughly with the Warisnagar thana, is chiefly composed of *bangar*, while the prevailing soil in the rest of the district is *matiyari*. But the distribution is not a strict one, for *matiyari* soils are found in *chaurs* in Samastipur, and *Balsundri* in the high lands of Benipati, *matiyari* soil, being extremely retentive of moisture, is best suited for the growth of winter rice. *Bhadoi* crops, which

*The text on Kosi project has been received departmentally in 1962. (P.C.R.C.)

cannot stand too much moisture, do best in *balsundri* or sandy *bangar*, and the more valuable *rabi* crops are almost exclusively grown on *balsundri*. Rice also does well on low-lying *bangar* lands, if the admixture of sand is not too strong to absorb the moisture. All over the district are found patches of *usar* land, which are unproductive owing to the salt efflorescence known as *reh* ; it is generally believed that this can only be eradicated by inundation.

"On the whole, however, the foregoing classification of soils is of little practical importance, and would not be readily understood except by the more intelligent cultivators. The only classification of land understood by the ordinary cultivator is that of *dhanhar* and *bhith*. *dhanhar* meaning the low land on which rice (*dhan*) is grown, and *bhith* the uplands growing cereals or crops of any kind other than paddy. This was the classification adopted in the records at the time of the settlement concluded in 1903.*

The district is divided into three well-defined physical divisions. The first is from the south to the extreme south-west of the district, comprising the thanas of Dalsingsarai and Samastipur and is the richest and the most fertile area in the district and grows all the most valuable autumn (*bhadai*) and spring (*rabi*) crops. The second tract, viz., the *doab* between the Baghmati and little Gandak is liable to inundation from the former river and the main crop produced is winter rice, though good *rabi* crops are also raised in many parts from the lands enriched by the fertilising silt deposited by floods. The third tract comprises the Sadar and Madhubani subdivisions, the south-eastern portion of which becomes a vast chain of lakes linked by a number of streams flowing south. In this part the only crop of any importance is rice unless inundated by early floods which is very prolific. In the Madhubani subdivision, where the level of the land is generally higher, the staple crop is winter rice; but the three western-thanas and the South of the Phulparas thana contain stretches of high land suitable for the more valuable crops, viz.,tobacco, chillies and potatoes, etc.

Principal crops.

The crops of the district fall under three main harvests, the *aghani*, *bhadai* and *rabi*. The *aghani* is the winter crop which is cut in the month of *Aghan*, and is composed mainly of winter rice. The *bhadai* is the early or autumn crop, reaped in the month of *Bhado* (August-September) consisting of 60 days' (*sathi*) rice, *marua* (*Eleusine coracana*), maize, millets and less important grains; while the *rabi* crop, includes such cold weather crops as wheat, barley, oats, grams, pulses, etc. Most of the tobacco and sugarcane are grown in Samastipur and Sadar Subdivision of the district.

*District Gazetteer of Darbhanga, 1907, pp. 50-51.

The following statement will show the acreage of the principal crop during 1953-54 to 1956-57.*

(IN THOUSAND OF ACRES.)

—	Rice (autumn and winter).	Wheat.	Gram.	Barley	Maize.	*Masoor*.	*Arhar*.	*Khesari*.	Peas.	Sugar-cane.	Tobacco.	Potatoes.	Jute.	Chillies.	*Marua*.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1953-54 ..	870	126	48	90	115	15	28	93	12	32	5	4	2	29	58
1954-55 ..	649	137	28	60	47	12	23	62	5	60	2	4	1	9	82
1955-56 ..	856	122	35	69	35	8	13	100	2	25	7	4	6	9	N.A.
1956-57 ..	911	121	32	67	53	8	16	105	2	36	7	11	11	28	NA.
1957-58 ..	864	87	34	64	125	14	45	74	3	33	9	6	15	38	69

—*Bihar Statistical Handbooks published by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Bihar.

Of the net cropped area sown about 62 per cent grows *aghani*, 40 per cent *rabi*, and only 19 per cent *bhadai* crops. With regard to the proportion of the area under these different crops, it must be remembered that the chief *aghani* crops are sown before the *bhadai* crops are harvested, and similarly the chief *rabi* crops are sown before the *aghani* is reaped. Hence the latter cannot usually be sown as a second crop to *bhadai*; and where it is predominant, the *rabi*, grown on land which has previously yielded winter rice, consists mainly of the cheapest kind of grains, such as *khesari*, or a thin catch-crop of gram or linseed. The *aghani* predominates in the Madhubani and Sadar subdivisions.

Paddy.—Paddy covers three-fifths of the net cropped area and is the main important crop in the district and no less than 80 per cent of the crop consists of winter rice. It is mostly sown in the north of the district where on account of the liability of the country to floods, it renders unsuitable for the growth of the *bhadai* or autumn paddy, except on the higher lands. The latter is most extensively grown in Khajauli thana. In the neighbouring thana of Banipatti, it is often destroyed by floods. The cultivators are, however, generally compensated for the loss of their *bhadai* crops in this area by the excellent *aghani* crop which they obtain from the submerged lands. A seasonable and well distributed rainfall throughout the whole course of the monsoon is essential to the prosperity of this crop. The *bhadai* crops on the other hand, while requiring good rain in the early part of the monsoon, are reaped during September, and are consequently independent of the *Hathiya* rains at the end of that month, the absence of which is fatal to *aghani* harvest. This explains why the Sadar and Madhubani subdivisions are always liable to scarcity or famine in the event of a failure of the monsoon while the greater part of Samastipur subdivision is generally immune. Though rice is extensively grown in Samastipur subdivision, it covers little less than a third of the net cropped area.

Rice is cultivated either by being sown broadcast or by means of transplantation. The former method is followed in the case of *bhadai* rice. It is sown broadcast in June or July and is not transplanted; it is regarded as a 60 to 90 days' crop and is reaped in August or September. Transplantation is the commonest method, which is followed in the case of nearly all the *aghani* or winter rice. The seeds are first sown broadcast after the commencement of the rains in June or July on lands selected for seed nurseries, which have previously been ploughed three or four times. After 4 or 6 weeks, when the young plants are about a foot high, they are generally transplanted, each plant being pulled out from the land, which is soft with standing water, and planted again in rows in flooded fields in which the soil has been puddled. The rice is then left to mature, with the aid of water, till towards the end of September. The water is then drained off and the

fields are allowed to dry for 15 days and at the end of that time they are again flooded. The late rains (the *Hathia*) are very important to bring the winter crop to maturity, and also to provide moisture for the sowing of the *rabi* crops. Should no rain fall at this period, or if irrigation is not possible the plants will wither. If there is a fair amount of rain or if the crops can be irrigated, the crops come to maturity in November or December. Due to recurrence of floods during the growing period of paddy retransplanting has often to be done. In case of late flood, the Paddy crops are washed away, the transplanting is done with the litters of the previously transplanted crop although the yield from such a crop is not much.

Miscellaneous foodgrains.—After rice, the next largest area is that shown as under miscellaneous foodgrains. Of the miscellaneous foodgrains, the most widely grown is *Khesari* which is usually sown as a catch-crop in *aghani* lands, at or just before the time of the *aghani* harvest. It is a cheap grain, and consumption is confined to the poorer classes.

Khesari is sown on about 6 per cent of the net cropped area. *Arhar* is another important crop. It is usually sown with maize in May or June, but is not reaped till the following February or March. *Arhar* crop occupies the land for pretty long time and the cultivator will not willingly grow it unless there is a drought. The yield is also not very profitable in comparison to other grains. The crop does not require much water. Its stalks are used as food. The other miscellaneous foodgrains are Peas, *Musuri, Kodo, China, Urid, Mung, Janera* and Oats. All of these except Oats, are generally sown with other crops.

Wheat.—The last Settlement Report (1896—1903) mentions that wheat covered only 3.12 per cent of the net cropped area.* Now it is grown on 9 to 10 per cent of the total net cropped area and is next to rice in importance. Wheat is mostly grown in Samastipur subdivision. It requires a rich and fairly dry soil. It is often grown as a second crop in the best maize lands, but in many cases wheat lands are left fallow during the rains. Cultivation of wheat is gaining ground in Sadar and Madhubani subdivisions in land raising a *Bhadai* crop.

Maize.—Maize appears to have replaced *marua* which according to the last District Gazetteer was next in importance to rice. On the average 9 per cent of the net cropped area is covered by maize. Maize is largely grown in the Samastipur subdivision. It is often sown along with *rabi* crops, and even where this is not the case a *rabi* crop is usually sown in the land after it has been cut.

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*Kerr's Settlement Report of Darbhanga (1896—1902), p. 91

Barley.—Barley covers about 8 to 9 per cent of the net cropped area. It is sown in November-December and harvested in March. It is grown on fairly high lands especially on loamy sandy soils which have generally already produced a *bhadai* crop. It is largely consumed by the poor section of the people.

Marua.—*Marua* is grown in all the subdivisions of the district. *Marua* though a cheap crop is cultivated with much care as it is considered the staple food-crop of the poorer classes. It covers about four to five per cent of the net cropped area. The stalks are used as fodder. *Marua* is the only crop which is transplanted and invariably produces a second crop at the *rabi* harvest.

Gram.—Gram covers only about two to three per cent of the net cropped area. It is most widely grown in the Darbhanga thana where, as elsewhere, it is often sown as a catch crop in the winter rice lands.

Sweet potatoes.—Sweet potatoes are widely cultivated throughout the district. During scarcity sweet potatoes are in great demand by the poor people.

Non-food crops.—Non-food crops include sugarcane, tobacco, potato, jute and chillies. About 18 per cent of the total net cropped area is under them. In Samastipur they occupy 25 per cent, while in each of the other two subdivisions they occupy about 15 per cent of the total cropped area. In the Samastipur subdivision, the major portion of the large non-food crops area is under tobacco and chillies, two valuable cash crops. Sugarcane is well spread over the entire district which has completely replaced indigo.

Tobacco is mostly grown in the Samastipur and Dalsingsarai thanas and most of the rest in the Warisnagar and Benipatti thanas. The latter, though mainly a rice growing tract like the rest of Madhubani, contains a considerable stretch of high land which is used for the more valuable *rabi* crops. The Virginia tobacco of Saraisa pargana is Samastipur subdivision has buyers from all parts of India. The acreage under tobacco is shrinking now owing to excise duty levied on it. The acreage under tobacco in this district for the past few years is as follows :—

1955-56	4,000
1956-57	11,000
1957-58	11,500
1959-60	12,000
1960-61	14,000
1961-62	15,600

Oil-seeds.—Oil-seeds are grown throughout the district. They consist mainly of linseed, mustard, *til* and castor.

Sugarcane.—The most important crop amongst non-food crops is the sugarcane. It has long been grown in the Madhubani subdivision and in Bahera thana of the Sadar subdivision. But the abandonment of indigo and poppy cultivation towards the close of the last century had extended its cultivation. In earlier days the cultivation of sugarcane was very considerable, and many of the indigo concerns were originally started as sugar factories, the manufacture of sugar being given up when indigo proved to be more profitable. The reverse process has taken place and sugarcane has now replaced indigo. In the last Settlement Operations (1896—1903) it was found that the area under sugarcane was 16,300 acres or 0.96 per cent of the net cropped area but its area had increased to 60,000 acres in 1954-55 or about 5.5 per cent of the net cropped area.* On the average its area in the normal year does not exceed from 38,000 acres to 40,000 acres. Sugarcane is one of the profitable crops grown in the district in spite of the labour and expense its cultivation requires. It is a crop which occupies the ground for a long period, extending over a year. It is planted during February or March, in cuttings of about a foot in length placed in rows about two to three feet apart. But recently it is being planted in November. When the plant begins to sprout, it is well watered and the surrounding earth is loosened. Each plant grows into a cluster of canes, which are generally ready for cutting from November to February. The crop requires great care and must have seven to eight waterings, even if the other crops have to do without water in consequence. A ratoon crop of sugarcane is often allowed to grow, particularly in the *diara* areas. In that case the crop occupies the land for about two years.

Factories have been assured of regular supply of sugarcane during the crushing season from the reserved areas as well as from outside. The price of sugarcane is now fixed by the Government, consequently the cultivators are assured of their dividend. Moreover, cultivators are financed and encouraged by the Cane Growers' Co-operative Societies in respect of cultivation, production and payments. Under the Sugar Control Act, inspectors are appointed to see that the cultivators do get their return through correct weighment. In the Pusa Sugarcane Research Institute, researches for breeding better types of sugarcane, manurial requirements and control over pests and diseases etc. are carried out. This Research Centre has been responsible for an extensive cultivation of sugarcane in the State and in the district. *Khandsari gur* produced has lost more of its past importance due to the sugar mills which consume huge quantity of sugarcane outturn. There are now five sugar mills in the district.

*Bihar Statistical Handbook, 1954, p. 31.

Chillies.—Chillies are cultivated widely but there is a heavy concentration in Samastipur subdivision. It covers about three to four per cent of the net cropped area of the district.* The crop needs high lands and sandy loamy soil. The chillies of Samastipur subdivision particularly have a wide market. The acreage under chillies in this district for the past few years has been as follows:—

1955-56	9,000
1956-57	28,000
1957-58	38,000
1958-59	24,146
1959-60	38,032

Other Miscellaneous crops.—Fibres like jute and thatching grass called *Kharaul* form two other important crops. The latter grows wild if left undisturbed and like sugarcane shelter herds of wild pig. When green it affords fodder to the cattle and when dry it is used for thatching. If cattle grazing could be prevented, it is a profitable crop. The fields which grow *Kharaul* are considerably valuable. When paper-factories are started there will be a big consumption of this grass along with bamboos which grow abundantly in this district. The wild *Kans* and *Pater* that infect lands and make them uncultivable will also be utilised in the paper mills.

Jute is grown in parts of the district but not in a big quantity. Jute is brought into this district to feed a jute mill in Samastipur town.

Water crop.— Water crops include *makhana* and *singhara.*

Makhana grows in tanks and ditches in Darbhanga district only. It is planted in the beginning of the rainy season and gathered about the end of March. Its cultivation is confined only in Madhubani and Sadar subdivisions. It is a unique product of the Darbhanga district.

Makhana is a very profitable crop as it is sold three to four rupees per *seer.* Its nutrition value is very great. It is a unique product of Darbhanga district.

Singhara.—Fruit of a water-creeper grows widely in the tanks and ditches in the district. It is planted in July and is gathered by the end of November and December. *Singhara* fruits have a growing market.

* Vide Bihar Statistical Handbook, 1954, pp. 30-31.

AREA AND YIELD DURING NORMAL YEAR

In the earlier statement we have discussed the areas under principal crops from 1953-54 to 1956-57. The corresponding figures of the yield as given in the Bihar Statistical Handbooks are as follows:—

(IN THOUSANDS OF TONS.)

Year.	Rice (autumn and winter).	Wheat.	Gram.	Barley.	Maize.	Masoor.	Arhar.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1953-54	223	37	6	19	23	2	4
1954-55	88	18	4	6	13	1	6
1955-56	190	26	7	10	5	1	3
1956-57	244	4	1	2	26	1	2
1957-58	109	11	6	11	34	2	11

(IN THOUSANDS OF TONS.)

Khesari.	Peas.	Sugarcane.	Potatoes.	Tobacco.	Jute.	Chillies.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17	2	224	10	2	2	7
9	1	401	12	1	1	3
16	..	160	12	1	8	2
11	..	697	16	1	17	3
10	..	408	7	2	26	16

The acreage production (average of three years ending 1959-60) of the major crops in the district is given below:—

Crops.	Average (in '000 acres) Triennium average of three years ending 1959-60.	Production in '000 tons (Triennium average of three years ending 1959-60).
Rice	843	216
Maize	122	53
Wheat	89	18

Crops.	Average (in '000 acres) Triennium average of three years ending 1959-60.	Production in '000 tons (Triennium average of three years ending 1959-60).
Gram	46	7
Barley	77	11
Sugarcane	201	592
Marua	76	78
Jute	12	24.7*
Potato	7	15
Rahar	45	11
Linseed	18	2
Rape mustard	6	1
Tobacco	10	4
Chillies	32	9

*In thousand bails.

The marketing seasons of important crops and marketable surplus in the district are as follows:—

Crops.	Market seaon.	Marketable crops surplus.
		(Per hundred)
Rice	October to April	30 to 35
Maize	August to December	20 to 22
Suguarcane	October to May ..	85 to 90
Potatoes	November to February	64
Tobacco	April to September	90 to 97
Chillies	March to June ..	95
Fish	September to February	90
Ghee	September to March	70

HORTICULTURE

The district of Darbhanga enjoys the privilege of certain factors with regard to soil and climate which are favourable for the growth of some kinds of fruits and vegetables.

Most part of the district comprises of alluvial soil. The vast area situated on the south of Buri-Gandak consisting of Dalsingsarai and Samastipur is traversed with large block of upland and is very fertile. The north part of the district including Madhubani consists of lowland plains with here and there fertile upland ridges.

On the average nitrogen content of the soil of this district is satisfactory and the P. H. remaining within the range of 7-8.2 is well suited for the production of many kinds of vegetables.

The principal fruits of this district are mango, *lichi*, guava, limes, lemon and banana. Besides this, many other fruits like peaches, *sapato*, *falsa*, pine-apple, etc., have also been found to grow in many localities of the district in small scale. Peaches of good quality have been found to grow particularly in the farm orchard of the Pusa estate. Even few grape varieties have been found to thrive well in the amateur gardening of the private individuals. In the subdivision of Madhubani, some amateur gardeners have grown good pine-apples, various kinds of mangoes common in other States, bananas of different species etc. A lawyer of Madhubani has a garden which is a masterpiece of sound horticulture.

Mango, the principal commercial fruit of this district occupies the largest acreage and the choicest variety of Darbhanga *langra* typical to this district has widespread market throughout this State as well outside the Province. Many orchardists of this district earn a profitable revenue every year by selling the grafts of this noted variety. Other popular varieties of mango, important of mention are: ***Mithua, Bombai, Kishenbhog, Kalkattia Malda, Sepia, Sukul*** and ***Bathua***. Among these, ***Mithua, Bombai*** are the early ones, ***Kishenbhog, Kalkattia Malda*** midseason, ***Sepia, Sukul, Fazli*** and ***Bathua*** are late season varieties. ***Bathua*** a typical late season cheap variety of this district starts appearing in the market from end of July to August and continues to feed the market till the middle of October. Growing plenty of ***Bijoo*** varieties in overwhelming numbers is another remarkable feature of growing in this district.

Next to Mango, counts the acreage of *lichi*. Though the quality of this fruit in general does not improve well yet Pusa estate itself and certain other villages, *viz*., Malinagar and Saidpur adjacent to Pusa estate produce *lichies* of excellent quality. Besides growing *lichi* of excellent quality *Bel* (Aeglemarmelos) and *Aola* (Phyllanthus emblica) of Malinagar village are well reputed for size and quality.

Due probably to the humid condition and alluvial nature of the soil with fairly good amount of calcium content, this district has favoured the growth of some particular species of citrus fruits and hence many varieties of limes, lemons and pummaloes are common fruits of the district.

Guava a popular fruit of this district also occupies a considerable acreage. Transport facilities in recent years even in the interior of the villages have widened its market at present times. Growing of jackfruit in certain areas such as Madhubani, Sakri, Samastipur is also a remarkable feature of worth mention in the development of horticultural potentiality and preservation of the unripe (green) fruit in the form of pickles is a common practice among the people. *Papaya*, custard apples and *Bel* fruits are also common and the better varieties are possible.

Among the aquatic vegetation of horticultural importance water-chest nut (*singhara*, locally named), has its widespread cultivation as this district is full of numerous ponds, waterpools, tanks and other water reservoirs of temporary types. Some portion of the northern part of the district including Hayaghat, Madhubani, Nirmali, etc., and particularly Bahera and Rusera in the south-eastern portion, becomes almost like a chain of temporary lakes when inundated in the rainy season which encourage the cultivation of this crop in large scale. The *Singharas* have an inexhaustible market and many poor people earn a lot with practically no investment of labour and fund.

Another crop of aquatic source, important of mention is: *Makhana* (locally named) which is considered to be the native of this district and is relished by the vast majority of people of this province and outside. It can also be claimed as one of the commercial cash crops of this district due to its large scale export to other States of India. Salted and fried *Makhana* is much relished. *Makhana* powder is used in making sweets and puddings. An experiment is being made to export salted and fried *Makhana* and *Makhana* powder. A venture has been subsidised by the State Government to do this.

Chilli is considered to be one of the main cash crops which grow abundantly in many tracts of this district particularly in the Samastipur subdivision. Part of the Saraisa pargana (specially on the both sides of Buri-Gandak) is well reputed for the large scale production of sweet patato. Production of large quantity of brinjal consisting of many varieties is one of the most important aspects of horticulture in this district and it becomes very cheap due to over production.

Certain indigenous vegetables like Elephant's foot (Oal), *Parwal* and *Patua Sag*, a leafy vegetable, are grown abundantly. Large scale preservation of *Oal* as pickle is a common practice among the people of this district.

Pupri Block of Janakpur Road Station is famous for the commercial production of vegetables specially the cauliflower. A remarkable achievement of the vegetable growers of this tract is cauliflower seed production.

There is great possibility of the increase of horticultural potentiality in near future if the large acreage of culturable waste land after reclamation, is brought under cultivation of fruits and vegetables. Inter-cropping the new mango orchard with various types of quick-growing fruits like papaya, banana and many other winter vegetables will give an excellent opportunity to the growers in increasing the production of fruits and vegetables. Also in the interspaces of old mango orchards, particularly in the Madhubani subdivision, cultivation of pine apple may be worth trial of investigation. The green-belts round the urban areas are capable of growing more and better varieties of horticulture. The area under fruits is about 3 per cent of the area under cultivation. Vegetables including the root crops like potatoes, *oal* etc. cover about 2.50 percent of the net cropped area. Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur (the old district of Tirhut) have the largest acreage under fruits than the other districts of Bihar. The acreage under orchards in Darbhanga district is larger than that of the other districts in the State. It is a pity that a large number of orchards has been destroyed in the last two decades either for fuel or the plough or for urbanisation.

Agricultural implements

Various kinds of indigenous agricultural implements are widely used from ploughing to harvest. The wooden-plough with iron shear, harrow, hook, ladder, sickle, bullock carts, etc, are common implements generally used by the cultivators. Modern implements have also been introduced but response from the cultivator is reported to be not very encouraging. Mould board ploughs called Kulti are quite popular with farmers of Samastipur area. They found their way into the countryside from the Indigo planters. Some improved agricultural implements are slowly gaining ground in the district. They are Bihar plough (senior and junior), Cultivator, Punjab plough, Ridger (senior and junior), Japanese rotary hoe, Japanese paddy thresher, Tractors and disc harrow.

The indigenous *rahat* pumps and *lathas* are widely used for irrigational operation but the modern pumping sets are also in operation.

The statement of the agricultural implements and machinery of 1945 and 1956 below will give a comparative picture of the agricultural implements in the district:—

----	Wooden ploughs.	Iron ploughs.	Tractors.	Carts.	Oil Engines.	Electric pumps.	Sugarcane Power.	Sugarcane Bullock
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1945 ..	140,666	2,607	47	37,020	56	46	193	1,614
1956 ..	189,259	12,280	194	50,252	161	74	226	2,852

Loans are advanced under the Agriculturists Loan Act to cultivators for purchase of tractors. Since the holdings of the average cultivators are small, tractors cannot be much used. The modern improved agricultural implements or machinery have not made much headway in the district. Most of the agricultural operations are done by age-old indigenous implements.

Seed supply

The chief agencies of seed supply are the cultivators, village merchants and the agencies of the State Government. The bulk of the seed is supplied by the cultivators themselves. A very small quantity of seed is supplied through the village merchants and agencies of the State Government. Seed multiplication schemes have been undertaken by the State Government, for which 34 seed multiplication farms have been established. There is a programme to set-up ultimately 43 seed farms in the district.

There are two subdivisional farms called Darbhanga farm in the district. One is called Darbhanga farm, situated one mile east of the Laheriasarai railway station. The farm was established in 1926 with an area of 25.77 acres of which 23.19 acres are under cultivation. The other subdivisional farm is at Mahinathpur in Madhubani, with an area of 51 acres. It was established in 1959. These farms along with the multiplication farms multiply improved seeds. The seeds produced in seed multiplication farms are given to the registered growers who multiply them and thus better seeds are offered to the cultivators.

Manures

Cow-dung, the cheapest and best manure is till burnt as fuel in many households. Farm-yard manure is not much in use. No particular care is taken to produce a balanced farm-yard manure with good chemical properties.

Besides farm-yard manure, composts and fertilizers are also in use. Experiments on manures are being conducted to suit the different crops and soils by the Agriculture Department. Fertilizers are sold through Credit Agricole and their agents. There are 10 Credit Agricoles in the district for the sale of chemical fertilizers to the public The demand for the fertilizers is on the increase but not to any appreciable extent. There are many villagers who think that ammonium sulphate, ammonium nitrate, ammonium phosphate, superphosphates are no better than cow-dung and oil-cakes.

Agriculture Department has been endeavouring to teach the average cultivator as how to make a proper farm-yard manure or compost or what are the greens that could be used as manure. Very few villagers grow *Dhaincha* or other legumes for manurial purposes, except for cash crops like sugarcane.

Rotation of crops

Rotation of crops is generally observed in Samastipur subdivision for the lands where wheat, tobacco, sugarcane and chillies are largely grown. Scientific rotation is practically not observed in paddy producing areas of Madhubani and Sadar subdivisions. The following is the pattern of crop rotation followed in the district :—

(a) Maize, *Moong* and potato.

(b) *Marua* and paddy.

(c) Maize, potato and peas.

(d) Maize, green manuring, paddy and *paird*.

(e) Maize, gram and peas.

(f) Maize and wheat.

(g) Maize and sugarcane.

(h) Paddy and sugarcane.

(i) Fallow and tobacco or chillies.

Agricultural diseases and pests

Some of the common diseases are described below :—

(i) *Late blight of potatoes* (Phytophthora infestans).—This is one of the most destructive diseases of potato as it causes, under favourable conditions, a rapid blighting of the crop in a few days. It generally occurs about the end of December or beginning of January and causes considerable damage to crop. The tubers are also infected by spores. Timely spraying with fungicides has been found successful to control the disease.

(ii) *Die-back of chilli*.—The disease becomes serious if the monsoon is prolonged. It has been found that the disease can be controlled to a considerable extent by timely spraying with copper fungicides.

(iii) *Rice gundhi bug*.—This pest for summer and autumn paddy is active in the paddy fields from July to October.

It sucks the milk of the grains. This pest can be controlled by dusting the crop with five per cent BHC dust at the rate of 20 lbs. per acre. *Paddy stem borer* and *rice case worm* are other diseases of rice plant controllable by insecticides.

(iv) The major diseases of sugarcane are (a) *red rot* (b) Smut (c) wilt and (d) *root parasites*. The Pusa Sugarcane Research Institute has been able to find remedies for these diseases. Both preventive and curative measures are taken for eradication of these diseases.

(*v*) Cut-worms are pest of *rabi* crops. The caterpillar cuts in tender plants at the ground level during the night and remains hidden under the soil during the day.

(*vi*) *Mango hopper*.—It is the most serious pest of Mango which is one of the principal cash crops of the district. The pest sucks the tender leaves and the florescence of trees as a result of which the flowers wither and drop down without forming any fruit. The pest is active from the middle of January to the middle of March. This can be controlled by spraying the trees with D.D.T.

SUGARCANE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BIHAR

The Sugarcane Research Institute, Bihar located at Pusa has been described elsewhere.

The appointment of a Sugarcane Specialist in 1932 by the Government of India intensified research on sugarcane. The Officer continued to work till 1934 with the sole assistance provided by an Agriculture overseer when three Research Assistants were added to the staff to assist in chemical, physiological and botanical investigation. Further addition came in 1939 with the addition of five sections for Entomology, Pathology, Agronomy, Soil and Gur Chemistry. In 1942, a large grant from the Sugar Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research enabled provision of three more officers, *viz*., Sugarcane Physiologist, Sugarcane Chemist and Statistician. The next important development took place in 1947 consisting in the amalgamation of extension staff dealing with sugarcane with the research unit as a measure ensuring maximum possible co-ordination. This was followed in the year 1949 by a large expansion in both the research and extension wing of the organisation. The present set-up of two wings is headed by the Director, Sugarcane Research and Development, Bihar with his headquarters at Pusa. Besides the various specialised sections at Pusa, viz., Agronomy, Physiology, Botany, Chemistry, Statistics, Entomology, and Pathology, there is a sub-station at Patna and Sipaya (Dist. Saran) to cater respectively to the different conditions presented by South Bihar and the semi-arid Saran tract, and the zonal centres scattered over the entire white sugar belt where the findings of the main station are tested under varying conditions of soil and climate.

Sugarcane research has to improve the yield and quality of the crop under a rational system to fit in with the cropping pattern. Differences in soil characters in the different zones call for variation in manurial practice. The differences are studied and different types of manure for different type of tract are recommended. The indigenous varieties of sugarcane have now been improved and better sugarcane known as Coimbatore and Pusa varieties have been introduced. These varieties have almost replaced the indigenous

varieties not only in North and South Bihar but in other States as well.

Definite recommendations have also been made as to the time of cropping according to the nature of the soil and existence of irrigation facilities. Certain cultural practices have also been found efficacious. The sections concerned have also come to definite conclusions regarding ratooning, weed control, cane physiology, breeding and selection.

The major pests of sugarcane have been traced and categorised and control measures have been worked out and the knowledge thus gained is available to the interested parties.

The research has enabled the milling industry in Bihar to increase its recovery from 8.4 per cent in 1932 when the organisation started functioning to near about 10.5 per cent and the acre yield has risen from 9.6 tons to over 14.00 tons.

Agricultural College, Pusa

When the stud farm at Pusa established in 1784 was liquidated towards the end of 1874, the property of the farm was utilised for growing and curing of tobacco. Messrs Begg Dunlop and Company of Calcutta started a tobacco factory here which lasted for about two decades. In 1897 the then Bengal Government terminated the lease of the Company and resumed charge of the entire property. In 1902, a scheme was prepared for utilising the place as a cattle breeding and dairy farm to which were added a proposal for a Agricultural Research Station and College. On December 26, 1903 the property was formally handed over by the Bengal Government to the Government of India. The Agricultural Research Institute and College was started at Pusa and the name of the latter was changed in 1929 to the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute.

The location of the College was mainly due to the generosity of an American philanthropist, Mr. Phipp, who was in India in 1903. He was impressed with Lord Curzon's zeal for a proper Agricultural College in India. He gave a blank cheque to Lord Curzon for this purpose. The cheque was utilised and the amount of Rs. 30,000 was made available. A part of the donation was also utilised for the starting of the Pasteur Institute at Coonoor besides the Agricultural Institute at Pusa. A magnificent building was raised at a cost of about rupees nine lakhs in those days. The laboratory was named as Phipp's laboratory.

This magnificent building locally known as *Naulakha* (nine lakhs) was destroyed by the Great Earthquake in 1934. The Government decided that the college and the other allied institutions should be

restarted at Delhi. This was done and the site has come to be known as New Pusa in New Delhi. On the site of the old institute there stands an orchard now at Pusa. The old research institution and the farm of the Government of India was taken over by the Government of Bihar early in 1936 and was run under the care of the Agriculture Department till the year 1947 when the Sugarcane Research Station was shifted to Pusa from *Musherhi* (Muzaffarpur district).

There is an agricultural school at Pusa which was started in 1952. It trains the Village Level Workers to man the Community Development Blocks. Two years' Agriculture Diploma Course is to be introduced in this School also. The State Government of Bihar have started an Agriculture College at Dholi about 7 miles from Pusa. Pusa Institute will be an inspiration to the Agriculture College at Dholi.

Regional Research Station.—The Regional Research Station was started at Pusa in 1955 and has been shifted to Dholi in the year 1960, is one of the four research stations of Bihar. If research is conducted in respect of all problems concerning crops grown in Tirhut Division. New varieties and latest improvements found out by this station are passed on to the cultivators through the extension wing of the Directorate of Agriculture. The station is headed by a Regional Director who is assisted by a number of Specialist Officers and Research Assistants.

Botanical Sub-station.—The Pusa Botanical Sub-station is a remnant of the Old Central Imperial Agricultural Research Institute. This institution is under the Central Government which is under the charge of a Superintendent who is assisted by Specialist Officers and Research Assistants. Breeding and multiplication of new varieties of crops are the main functions of this sub-station.

Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

Livestock.—Rearing of cattle is an important subsidiary occupation in this district. Regarding the cattle wealth the last District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907) mentions as follows :—

"Tirhut has always had a high reputation for its cattle, and the East India Company used to obtain draught bullocks from it for the Ordinance Department. The best strain in the district is the Bachaur, so called from the northern *pargana* in which the breed is common. Further south, floods militate against success in breeding, and though there is never an absolute lack of food, the want of good pasturage is a serious drawback. There are large grazing grounds in the north but in the south, where nearly all the land is under cultivation

the cattle have to be content with such scanty herbage as the road-sides, tank-banks and boundary ridges afford, and are partly stall-fed on chopped straw. The grazing ground necessary for the maintenance of a sufficient agricultural stock has, indeed, probably been reduced to the lowest possible limits.*

"The Madhubani subdivision is well stocked with cattle, and the Khajauli and Phulparas thanas contain a large number of milch kine, draught cattle and agricultural stock of all kinds. These two thanas contain the Jabdi and Bachaur *parganas*, which are noted for their breed of cattle. The head-quarters subdivision and the Warisnager thana are the worst stocked of all. The whole of this area is liable to inundation, from which the cattle always suffer most severely; and in addition, a large part of Bahera and Rusera are badly off for roads, and are kept there. Samastipur and Dalsingh-sarai are wonderfully well-stocked, considering the small proportion of waste land which they contain, but the high cultivation practised in this area no doubt necessitates the maintenance of a considerable stock.

"Buffaloes are reared in considerable numbers, and the district has long been noted for its breed, good males fetching a high price and being largely exported to Bengal. They are chiefly valuable for the milk they yield in large quantities; the soil being lighter than in the South Bihar districts, they are rarely used for ploughing in this part of the country. Sheep are mostly found in the south of the district, but their number is inconsiderable. Goats are bred in most villages, and are especially numerous in localities in which Muhammadans form a large proportion of the population. They are most common in the Warisnagar and Samastipur thanas, owing to the number of Muhammadan villages in the neighbourhood of Samastipur town. Pigs of the ordinary omnivorous kind are kept by the low castes. The only horses general use are the usual indigenous ponies; they are generally undersized and incapable of much heavy works; but they are very hardy. and those used for *ekkas* often have astonishing endurance and a great turn of speed."

The main avenue of export of the Bachaur breed bullocks is the Sitamarhi cattle fair in Muzaffarpur district held annually during *Ram Navami* festival in the month of *Chait*. It has also a good turnover in Sonepur fair. Besides Bachaur other breeds found in the district are *Sahiwal*, *Tharparkar* and local mixed breed. Livestock census has been discussed later.

Fodder crops.—The indigenous fodders are stalks of maize, paddy, *marua*, *janera*, oats or leaves of *rahar* plants. Husk of

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* There has been a decline in the Pasturage since. (P. C. R. C.)

wheat, barley, gram and *masoor* is also used as fodder. Gree fodder is essential but is becoming scarce.

The Animal Husbandry Department has launched the fodder development programme of schemes popularising fodder production, conserving fodder for lean months and feeding of cattle on standard rations. It has not been able to bring about any appreciable increase in the area under fodder crops. Green fodder like *napier*, *Para*, *gur*, *bhirni jowar* etc. and legumes like *burseem* have been encouraged. Silo-pits are hardly to be seen.

Dairy farming.—The State Government maintain the Bachaur Cattle Breeding Farm at Pusa. There is a private dairy farm of Raj Darbhanga at Darbhanga. None of the farms contain pasturisation plant. Milk product in the district is now poor and inadequate. The average milk yield per cow is very low. Darbhanga district was famous for milk products like *ghee*, butter, etc. A modern type of dairy for producing milk-products on modern lines has been sponsored by the State Government (1960).

Sheep and Goat breeding.—Good quality of sheep is difficult to breed due to want of pasturage. Goats of common variety are found in every village. Very little attempt is made to improve the breed. Goat milk is not popular. When the European Planters ran their indigo factories and had consolidated farms, there were higher varieties of sheep and goat in the district.

Poultry farming.—Poultry is reared mostly by Muhammadans and certain castes of Hindus, but there is hardly any method of rearing the birds. The birds are small, often diseased and are usually kept shut in a dark coup in the night. They are let loose in the morning to search for food. The birds are not given any balanced diet and whatever is given in the form of paddy, rice, husk, etc. are often small in quantity and insufficient for their proper growth. Greens are seldom given.

A Poultry Development Centre at Pusa and one Poultry Hatching Centre at Kalyanpur have been opened. The centres provide hatching eggs and chicks of improved breed at an attractive price for multiplication of improved types of poultry.

There has not been much of success so far to bring about a general improvement in the breed. *Hats* were visited and in no *hat* a good variety of bird was found for sale. The eggs are small and often such eggs are found sold that they should be used for feeding the chicks.

The following statement will give the break-up figures of poultry in 1956 census*:—

POULTRY

Fowls.			
Hens.	Cocks.	Chickens.	Total.
71,672	43,466	83,050	1,98,088

Ducks.					
Ducks.	Drakes.	Ducklings.	Total.	Others.	Total Poultry.
1,922	602	595	3,119	6,797	2,08,004

The total poultry in 1951 in Darbhanga district was 1,75,569 which rose to 2,08,004 in 1956 which recorded an increase of 18.5 per cent. It is reported that the 1961 census has recorded the number of 2,40,159 or an increase of about 20 per cent. A more rise in the figures does not mean an improvement in quality. Since in none of the towns or *hats*, good quality of birds or proper sized eggs were found commonly sold, one has to draw the conclusion that there has been very little improvement in poultry.

Fisheries.—Fish is a favourite item of food for the people of Darbhanga. *Machbhat* (fish and rice) is proverbial in this district as the staple diet. Most of the rivers, tanks, *jhils* and low water-logged areas abound in fish and this district is one of the principal fish producing centres in Bihar. The common species are *rohu*, *jastr*, *bachua*, *katla*, *boari*, *naini*, *tangra*, *mangur*, *garai* and *singhi*, etc. A variety of small sized and different types of mud fish are found.

Thousands of maunds of fish every year are exported from different areas. Rusera and Samastipur are big fishing exporting stations.

There are about 50,000 acres of water areas available for fish culture, consisting of tanks and reservoirs many of which need

*Report on the Livestock Census of Bihar, 1956, p. 127.

reclamation to make them suitable for fish culture. Paucity of good spawn, in local streams and absence of suitable methods for the storage and transport of fish are the main obstacles. With the development of roads and possibility of quicker railway transport, it would have been easier to get fish from Rusera and Samastipur in Patna every evening, the distance being very small. There is no arrangement for cold storage and fish trade has been allowed to continue in the hands of a few who follow primitive methods of catching and transporting fish. As a matter of fact, the abundance of fish in this district in the past has been commented upon by writers. There has been a spiral rise in the prices of fish in Darbhanga district partially due to the fact that most of the catch is exported to Calcutta, Bhagalpur, Katihar, etc.

Fisheries is under the Agriculture Department. One Fisheries Inspector has been posted in the district with fisheries supervisors in subdivision to look after the development of Pisciculture. Spawn of recommended varieties of fish are collected from the river Ganga and reared in the nursery ponds of the district. The fries are then sold and stocked in tanks of the people. Some propaganda has been made for the clearing of tanks for Pisciculture. During the last five years of the Second Plan Period about 50 lacs fish seed have been distributed.

CATTLE BREEDING

Except Bachaur breed the other local breed is of poor quality. Efforts have been made by the Animal Husbandry Department to improve the quality of local breed by cross breeding with improved variety of bull of Hariana and Bachaur breed. Hariana breed cattle serve double purposes, they are better milk producer than Bachaur and their bull calves are more virile and useful for improved cultivation. In Samastipur subdivision they thrive better as the climate is not very moist. But in Madhubani subdivision only Bachaur breed cattle thrive. Artificial insemination centres have been opened at Darbhanga, Madhubani, Bahera, Khutauna, Samastipur, Jayanagar and Benipatti with 23 sub-centres for improving the local breed. Artificial insemination centres are not very popular yet due to prejudice of the people. Improved rams and Jamunapuri bucks are also distributed for upgrading the local sheep and goats.

All-India Key-Village Scheme.—The scheme was sponsored by the Government of India and is in operation in the district. The scheme aims at improving the general efficiency of the cattle by adopting scientific method of breeding, feeding, disease control and marketing. Selected bull-calves are reared in the key villages for distribution after maturity for the purpose of upgrading. At Pusa there is one key-village centre with five sub-centres at Saidpur Maidapur, Malikpur, Gangapur and Morsand. The impact is hardly yet perceptible.

Goshalas.—*Goshalas* are institutions for maintaining cows and bullocks. Usually established by the Hindus with a religious slant, they have been trying to save cows and bullocks from slaughter. As a result many of the privately run *goshalas* have been *Pinjrapoles* when old and decrepit cattle are being kept alive.

The Darbhanga Goshala Society maintains *goshalas* at Rakhwari, Jhanjharpur, Narhi (Lokhi), Laheriasarai and Gangwara, *Goshalas* are also located at Madhubani, Samastipur, Jayanagar, Dalsingsarai, Tajpur, Rusera, Mohiuddinagar, Kusheswarasthan, Madhepur and Bhawanipur.

The State Government have undertaken a scheme for the development of the existing private *goshalas* by giving non-recurring grant and technical assistance. Money is advanced for purchasing dairy equipments and for construction of sheds Improved breed of cows and bulls are given to form a dairy herd of improved breed. Segregation of decrepit, useless and unproductive cattle, competing with the productive ones has not yet been taken up in the district. But efforts are being made to send such decrepit cattle to the *gosadan* at Nirmali in Saharsa district. But the progress so far achieved is not encouraging particularly due to unwillingness of the Hindus in parting with the old useless cattle. Many of the useless cows, however, are sold to the muslim butchers and slaughtered.

CATTLE-FAIRS

No important cattle fair is held in the district. The main avenue of export of Bachaur cattle as stated before is the fair at Sitamarhi in Muzaffarpur district. There are three minor annual cattle fairs, the details of which are given below :—

Name of fair.	Period when held.	Approximate number of cattle.	Kind of animal.	Remarks.
Nukyapur ..	*Aghan* and *Chait* months	4,000	3,000	Bullocks.
			500	Horses.
			400	Cows.
			100	Goats.
Jatmalpur ..	*Fagun* month .	5,000	4,000	Bullocks.
			500	Horses.
			400	Cows.
			100	Sheep and Goats.
Hiropatti ..	*Chait* month ..	5,000	5,000	Bullocks.

A number of weekly *hats* are held in different places where cattle are sold. The important *hats* are at Basauli, Biraul, Benipur, Dalsingsarai, Vidyapati Nagar, Basopatti and Jatmalpur villages.

Government Cattle Farm, Pusa

The Pusa cattle farm has an old history, which dates back almost to the advent of the British rule in Tirhut. The extensive pasturage which the neighbourhood of Pusa afforded attracted the location of cavalry units as a reserve column both in the Muslim rule and in the early British period. The *Saraisa* breed of horses (Pusa lies in Saraisa *Pargana*) was known throughout India at one time. On July 5,1784 a stud was established at Pusa through a *Sanad* with the East India Company's seal.* The Company agreed to pay to the zamindars a rental of 15,000 *Sicca* rupees for the lands occupied. Capt. W. Fraser was the first Superintendent of the stud farm. With barley selling at 3 maunds 35 seers to a rupee the stud was a success and ran for about nine decades. In 1796 the village was fully acquired by the Government and the tenants were obliged to grow oats and various kinds of grasses for supply to stud.

The European indigo planters of Bihar and the military in various parts of the country fully utilised the Pusa-breed horses. The Pusa horses did very well in the polo meets, pig-sticking games and races. Horses were a part and parcel of a planter's life and with the large number of indigo *kothis* almost at a distance of 15 miles from Rampur at one corner of Champaran district bordering Nepal to Kishanganj now on the border of East Pakistan, the Pusa-breed horses had a ready market. The stud was liquidated towards the end of 1884 and the property was utilised for growing and curing of tobacco. The breed of horses deteriorated with the closure of the stud and Saraisa horses are a myth.

The present cattle farm was established in March, 1948. The main objects of the farm are to develop cattle by selective breeding of the Indigenous Bachaur breed and also to function as a dairy farm. It has to work in conjunction with the key-village scheme for further development of cattle in North Bihar. This farm maintains two breeds of cattle, Bachaur and Hariana. The present (1961) strength of the cattle in the farm is 613 out of which 32 are Bachaur and Hariana bulls.

The average daily milk yield of the farm varies from 800 lbs. to 950 lbs. Milk is supplied to Pusa, Samastipur, Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur. The farm on an average produces 60 to 70 bulls annually which are being distributed for breeding. The farm has 398 acres of land in which intensive cultivation of fodder is done.

*Muzaffarpur Old Records published by Gazetteers' Revision Section has some interesting letters on the subject.

One poultry development centre and a unit of key-village scheme are also attached with the farm. Yorkshire breed of pigs are sold to the pig breeders for piggery development.

Animal Diseases and Veterinary Dispensaries

Cattle diseases frequently spread in epidemic form. The common diseases are rinderpest, haemorrahagic septicaemia, blackquarter, anthrax, surra and foot and mouth diseases. The disease mentioned last is very common. The statement below will show the incidence of outbreak and death from diseases in recent years :—

—	Rinderpest.		Haemorrhagic septicaemia.		Blackquarter.		Anthrax.		Foot and mouth diseases.	
	Seizure.	Death.	Seizure.	Death.	Seizure.	Death.	Seizure.	Death.	Seizure.	Death.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1956-57	70	29	113	81	86	61	4	4	1,401	..
1958-59	24	15	105	57	35	24	9	4	90	..
1959-60	..	..	190	120	133	86	..	..	6	..
1960-61	..	..	271	170	82	46	13	12	2,195	8

It is reported that the incidence of cattle mortality has decreased owing to prompt medical aid given in a good number of veterinary hospitals and dispensaries and mobile dispensaries strewn in the district. Outbreaks are tackled promptly with sera and vaccine. Mass inoculation is resorted to against such diseases for which specific medicine is available. The Rinderpest Eradication Scheme launched by the Government has controlled to a great extent the spread of this epidemic.

From the Old District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907) it appears that there was only one veterinary institution at Laheriasarai in the district and there had been no expansion in it till 1951. During the First Plan Period the following Veterinary hospitals and dispensaries were opened in the district :—

Hospitals.	Dispensaries.
(*i*) Laheriasarai ..	.. Kamtaul, Bahera and Biraul.
(*ii*) Samastipur ..	.. Dalsingsarai and Rusera.
(*iii*) Madhubani ..	.. Jayanagar, Phulparas, Benipatti and Madhepur.

Besides, during the First Plan Period Class I dispensaries were opened at Ladania, Tajpur, Singia and Pusa (Gangapur).

During the Second Plan Period the following new Veterinary Class I dispensaries were started at the following places :—

Sadar subdivision.—(1) Hayaghat, (2) Bahera, (3) Manigachi, (4) Singhwara, (5) Keotiranway, (6) Jale, (7) Bahadurpur, (8) Ghanshayampur and (9) Mobile dispensary, Darbhanga.

Madhubani subdivision.—(1) Laukahi, (2) Khutauna, (3) Benipatti, (4) Harlakhi, (5) Madhedapur, (6) Babu Barhi, (7) Bisfi, (8) Andhratharhi, (9) Rajnagar, (10) Pandaul, (11) Khajauli and (12) Jhanjharpur.

Samastipur subdivision.—(1) Sarairanjan, (2) Warisnagar, (3) Kalyanpur, (4) Hasanpur, (5) Mohiuddinagar, (6) Shahpur patori, (7) Bibhutpur and (8) Kusheswarasthan.

Visualising the increased demands of stockman, a scheme for giving elementary training in animal husbandry was included in the First Five-Year Plan and a stockman training centre was opened at Darbhanga. Eighty stockmen are trained annually in this centre.

Livestock Statistics

The first livestock census was taken in 1920 and since then it is quinquennially taken. The total livestock in 1951 was 14,85,373 which rose to 16,39,937 in 1956. From the District Animal Husbandry Office it was gathered that the total number of livestock in 1961 came to 18,76,679. The break-up figure was as follows :—

Livestock Census, 1961

Cattle—	
Male over three years	4,62,155
Breeding	375
Used for work and breeding	260
Used only for work	4,59,806
Others	1,714
Females over three years	3,05,675
In Milk	1,26,622
Dry	1,73,985
Working	2,555
Others	2,513
Young stock	3,47,258
Total—Cattle	11,15,088

[illegible]	1,126
Breeding	428
Used for work and breeding	14
Used for work	408
Others	57
Female over 3 years	1,44,035
In milk	79,773
Dry	61,849
Working	1,110
Young stock	1,16,692
Total—Buffaloes ..	12,61,868
Sheep	12,165
Goats	4,71,043
Horses and ponies	5,432
Others	11,096
Total—Livestock	18,76,679

Natural Calamities

The liabilities of floods and droughts are the usual feature in Darbhanga district but it suffers more from floods than droughts.

Floods

The District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907) has the following regarding the floods in the district :—

"An account of the river system of Darbhanga has been given in Chapter I. from which it will be seen that the district is intersected by numerous streams and rivers, many of which rise in the Nepal hills and are subject to violent floods. To the north the Kamla runs due south from the hills, being joined on the way by numerous tributaries, and pursues a southerly course as far as the town of Darbhanga; it then turns off to the south-east, and eventually falls into the Ganges. Further south the district is traversed by the Baghmati, which rising near Katmandu, pierces the Nepal hills before it reaches British territory. It receives many tributaries in the Nepal *Tarai*, and after forming the boundary between the Muzaffarpur and Champaran districts, deflects abruptly to the south-east through Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga until it joins the Tiljuga at Tilakeshwar in the south-east corner of the district. The Little Gandak rises in the lower range of the Nepal hills near Sumeswar. and receives on its left bank numerous tributaries before entering North Bihar. It pursues an easterly direction through Darbhanga almost parallel with the Baghmati, and, after traversing the southern part of the district, falls into the Ganges just below the town of Monghyr.

"In this portion of their course the beds of the rivers, raised by the silt they bring down, are elevated above the level of the surrounding country; and it will thus be understood that sudden heavy rain over the northern portion of Tirhut, the Nepal *tarai*

and the range of hills to the north of it, some 150 miles in length, may easily cause these narrow drainage channels to overflow their banks. When this happens, an inundation inevitably follows, and the lower down one goes, the more is the evil aggravated, not only by the converging of the streams towards the same point, but also by the net-work of private *bandhs* or embankments that have been made year after year for the protection of the villages along their banks : for in the first place they make matters worse for the villages lower down stream, and in the end, when the floods have asserted themselves, and spread over the country, they hedge them in and delay their subsidence. Owing to this combination of circumstances, the district has always been subject to severe and widespread inundations, which cause a good deal of temporary suffering. But, as a rule, the distress they cause soon passes away; the dwellings which are destroyed are quickly replaced, as the cost of erecting such mud-walled huts is small; and the cultivators are compensated, in large measure, for the losses they sustain by the fertilizing silt left by the receding waters, which increases the productiveness of the soil and ensures rich crops. The following account of the greatest of the floods which have occurred in recent years will sufficiently show how short-lived are their injurious effects, except in years of extraordinary floods such as 1906.

Floods of 1893

"In 1893 there were three distinct floods, one after the other, answering to the heavy falls of rain in July, again in August, and lastly in September. The first did no particular damage, but the two others came down upon a country already water-logged, causing an immense amount of injury to crops, houses, roads, and to the railway line between Samastipur and Sitamarhi. Most of the *bhadoi* over the flooded tracts was lost, the portion saved being greatly injured; the rice plants were swept away not only once but twice, and in some places three times in succession, where the people had been able during the intervals to procure new seedlings and to replant them. In Champaran and Muzaffarpur the floods from the Baghmati and Little Gandak were confined, roughly speaking, to the country lying to the north of the Bengal and North-Western Railway line. But in Darbhanga matters were aggravated by the water from the Kamla, at its highest known flood, heading the flow from the other districts. The combined floods swept the district from north-west to south-east at a level some 3 feet higher than had ever been known before. One-half of the district was for the time a slowly moving inland sea, the inhabitants with their cattle camping out along the high-level roads, the railway embankments, and here and there on a piece of *dih* land standing out of the water like an island. Fortunately, the waters rose gradually; no lives, so far as could be ascertained, were lost; and the people

had time to save their stores of grain and to drive off most of their cattle. Still numbers of these perished both during the floods and subsequently from want of proper nutriment.

"Altogether 2,000 square miles were submerged, the parts most affected being the centre and south of the head-quarters subdivision, the western portions of the Madhubani subdivision and the northern and south-eastern parts of the Samastipur subdivision. The southern half of the town of Darbhanga itself was for some days under water, and between 1,400 and 1,500 houses collapsed. Great damage was done to the railway line, roads and bridges, traffic on the Darbhanga-Sitamarhi section of the railway being interrupted for nearly three weeks. The way in which the people recovered from their losses, instead of being overwhelmed by them, was very remarkable. At first it seemed almost certain that the affected tracts would be the scene of famine relief on an extensive scale; but as time went on, and the floods subsided, the people returned to their villages, re-built their houses, and proceeded to till their lands for the *rabi* sowings. Provision was made for distributing advances under the Agriculturists Loans Act ; but, in the end only a comparatively small sum was needed for the purpose. In February 1894 test relief works were opened in the south-east of the district, but they were attended by only 700 or 800 persons and they were soon closed, as even this small number soon dwindled down. The reason for this appears to be that there were excellent harvests in the unflooded parts of the country, where there was a plentiful demand for labour, and prices were low; and that in the flooded parts of the people expected and abundant *rabi* harvest after the enrichment of the lands by the silt deposit, and the *mahajans* were consequently willing to loosen their purse-strings.

Floods of 1898

"In September 1898, the district was again visited by flood, and an area of 800 square miles was inundated. In the Madhubani subdivision the floods affected only the western portion comprised of the Benipatti thana, where they were caused by the rising of the Little Baghmati. In the head-quarters subdivision the tracts of country along the Kamla, Baghmati, Little Gandak and Karai suffered considerably, but in the interior little damage was done, except to the low lands. The civil station of Laheriasarai and the town of Darbhanga, lying between the Kamla and Baghmati were flooded in parts by the rise of both rivers, and about 800 houses collapsed; but the land on which the Government buildings stand was not submerged, owing to the protection afforded by sluice gates erected some time previously. In the Samastipur subdivision the parts most seriously affected were the eastern portion of the Warisnagar thana along the Baghmati and the south-western part of the Dalsinghsarai thana, which was flooded by the overflow of the Tal Baraila, a large lake in the Muzaffarpur

district. Fortunately, the floods came after the middle of September, when a considerable portion of the *bhadoi* crop had already been harvested; and, in spite of the loss caused by the floods, an average crop was secured. The winter rice crop in some places was entirely ruined, and altogether about half of it was damaged. The mud-walled huts of the villagers collapsed in great numbers, and over 38,000 were destroyed. Very few cattle were lost, but 164 persons were drowned, the loss of life being greatest in the Warisnagar thana, where the Baghmati came down in flood with great suddenness, accompanied by a violent cyclone. On the other hand, the floods greatly increased the fertility of the soil, and ensured a magnificent *rabi* crop. Labour was abundantly provided for on the construction of the railway line to Katihar, which was closed to the tracts most severly affected; and not a single application was made for Government loans. Prices did not rise, and the Collector reported that, taking the district as a whole, the flood was rather beneficial than otherwise.

Floods of 1902

"Another great inundation was that of August 1902, which was caused by excessive rain in the Nepal hills. To the north-west, in the Benipati thana, the Jamuna and Bilauti poured down their flood waters through the Dhaus river, and further east, in the Madhubani thana, the floods came down through the Jaynagar Kamla, the Mirzapur Kamla, the Balan and Tiljuga. The *bhadoi* crop was partially destroyed, the roads were extensively breached, and parts of the town of Madhubani were submerged. To the north-east of Madhubani the floods came down through the Balan and Bihula, joining the Khurg and Panchi channels; and in this tract the rice crop was seriously damaged. The flood was greatest in the Madhubani subdivision, but further south, the little Baghmati breached the embankment which protects Darbhanga, and flowed into the southern and western parts of the town. Some injury was done to the crops in the headquarters subdivision, and also in some villages on the banks of the Little Gandak in the Samastipur subdivision; but in this part of the district, the floods caused comparatively little damage, as they had already spent their force in the northern tracts. Even there, however, there was but little loss of life, 17 persons only being drowned. In some of the frontier villages many houses were damaged or swept away altogether, and there was considerable loss of cattle; but elsewhere the news of the flood spread very fast, and the villagers saved their cattle by pegging them out on the banks of tanks and on the roads. Considerable injury was done to the roads; and a bumper *bhadoi* crop was converted into a crop estimated at 78 per cent in the tracts not flooded to less than half a crop in the flooded tract. As, however, the flood occurred early in the season, the winter rice did not suffer much, as it was possible to transplant much of it, and the plentiful moisture enabled the cultivators to do so over a larger area than usual. In spite of the losses they sustained,

the cultivators in the north welcomed the floods. In the preceding year the rainfall had been deficient, and the winter rice crop had nearly failed in some parts. Here the floods were of comparatively short duration, but they sufficed to replenish the empty tanks and wells, and left a thick deposit of silt, which was invaluable for the *rabi* crop and ensured a full winter rice harvest, where seedlings were available. Consequently, though the people complained of the embankments and of the passage of the flood, no complaints were made about the occurrence of the flood itself.

Floods of 1906

"It has hitherto been a common belief that in Darbhanga famine is never caused by flood, but this belief has been rudely shaken by the course of events during the present year (1906), when the district was swept by the most disastrous floods of which there is any record, and the suffering of the people culminated in famine. In the middle of July the river Kamla rose in flood, causing considerable damage to the maize and *marud* crops, and also destroying the paddy seedlings in the head-quarters subdivision; but the flood subsided after doing a comparatively small amount of damage. It was followed however, by an inundation of unprecedented height and duration in August. This flood began to rise on the 6th August coming from two directions, the Kamla and the northern or Little Baghmati on the north-west, and the true Baghmati and Little Gandak on the west. It rose steadily till the 24th August or for a period of 16 days, and during this time the greater part of the district was submerged. The whole town of Darbhanga and Laheriasarai was under water, the only places that escaped being the *kachahri* premises in Laheriasarai and the Bara Bazar in Darbhanga. Here the flood rose so suddenly and the rush of water was so great that thousands were rendered homeless within a few hours, and shelter had to be given to them in the *kachahri* compound. In the interior the distress was far greater. The mud-walled huts soon crumbled away, and for some days the homeless villagers had to camp out on any high land that stood above the waste of water, before they could move on to take shelter in the towns or the few villages that had escaped. The roads were broken in all directions, many parts were inaccessible for want of boats, the railway lines were breached in several places, and the bridges near Hayaghat and Kishanpur being washed away, traffic was stopped for a month. The water in the town of Darbhanga began to recede after about a week, and had disappeared in about 2 weeks' time; but in the interior it took about 3 months for it to clear off, and in the meantime incalculable damage was done to the crops. The *bhadoi* crop was almost entirely destroyed in the head-quarters subdivision, and the damage done to it in the Madhubani subdivision and the Warisnagar thana of the Samastipur subdivision was scarcely less serious.

The *aghani* crop, on the success of which the people are dependent for their year's supply of food, was practically swept away in three-quarters of the Darbhanga subdivision, and was nearly all destroyed in the Warisnagar and Dalsingsarai thanas. In the north of the district, where the floods subsided early and seedlings were available, the cultivators were able to retransplant; but in the greater part of the head-quarters and Samastipur subdivisions the lateness of the flood made this impossible.

"The loss of the crops followed on a year of bad harvests, for in 1905-06 the *bhadoi* crop yielded only 40, and the *aghani* crop 67 per cent of a normal crop; and the distress which ensued was aggravated by the high price of foodgrains. During the month of September the trade with adjoining districts was almost at a standstill owing to breaches on the railway line, and internal trade was paralyzed by breaches on the road. Prices had been gradually rising during the year, and were already very high; but the damage to the crops and the interruption in the communications into and through the district sent them up with a bound, until they reached even a higher level than in the famine of 1896-97. The price of rice rose to 5 seers a rupee, and could not be obtained at all in many places, while the quantity of maize available was unusually small, only a few maunds being for sale even in the town of Darbhanga. The result of this combination of circumstances was to plunge a considerable proportion of the population into destitution, and there can be little doubt that had it not been for the promptness of the local officers and planters in starting kitchens for the distribution of food among the homeless and infirm, many deaths from starvation must have been occurred. Famine has been declared in the Rusera and Bahera thanas, and relief operations have been started. The number receiving gratuitous relief was 45,500 in the beginning of October, 19,000 at the end of November, and 15,800 at the end of December; while the number of those attending test relief works has risen from 1,900 to 14,500 and 32,400 in the same period. Government has advanced 4 lakhs for distribution as agricultural loans, and this large sum has already been expended; while the Maharaja of Darbhanga who has undertaken the task of granting relief on his own estates, has set aside 5 lakhs to provide for loans and gratuitous relief. Nearly two-thirds of the entire district with a population of 1,883,000 is affected, the area being 2,079 square miles, of which 1,069 square miles are in the head-quarters, 590 in the Madhubani and 420 in the Samastipur subdivision; and it is estimated that famine will continue until April, though it is considered unlikely that more than 1 per cent of the population will require relief on relief works."*

Reports of the later floods have been summed up from the annual "Land Revenue Administration Report", the details

*District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907) (Pp. 64—70)

supplied by the Executive Engineer, Flood Investigation Division and reports of the Collector of Darbhanga to the Commissioner of Tirhut Division.

Floods (1910).—As a result of continuous and heavy downpour during the month of July almost all the rivers of Darbhanga District registered abnormally high floods during July, 1910.

The Baghmati rose to maximum H. F. L. of 145.37 (Rly. datum) during July, 1910 at the Railway bridge No. 4 on west of Muhamadpur railway station. Similarly the Kareh rose to maximum H. F. L. of 155.75 (Rly. datum) at the railway bridge No. 17 in Samastipur, Darbhanga section of the railway line and the Jiwach course rose to R. L. 159.81 (Rly. datum) at railway bridge No. 43 in Darbhanga-Nirmali section of the railway line during the same month. The Burhi Gandak attained the same abnormal level as in 1906. It was about 4′ higher than the year 1909 at Samastipur railway bridge.

A vast area in the district of Darbhanga was subjected to heavy inundation and the *bhadoi* crop was mostly damaged. Winter rice crop was also damaged to a large extent and was restored by re-plantation after the flood subsided.

The Railway line was breached at several places in the district of Darbhanga. The roads falling in the spill zone were badly damaged and were rendered unsuitable for traffic for a long time.

Floods (1912).—Although there was a total rainfall of 63.54″ during the year, it was not suitably distributed during the monsoon months. The year experienced the flood of average intensity and insufficient rainfall in the months of September and October affected the crops.

Floods (1913).—During the year, 1913, Darbhanga district experienced a moderate flood. The rivers did not much overspill their banks. There was spill over low banks and the spill went to fill up the low pockets. The river Kamla rose to a level of 190.83 (Rly. datum) at Rajnagar bridge No. 16-A, but not much inundation was caused. The Burhi Gandak at Samastipur railway bridge roughly speaking registered nearly 2′ higher flood level than in the year 1912 but it was nearly 6′ less than the abnormal flood of 1910.

Bhadoi crops in low areas were damaged to some extent but the yield of winter rice and *rabi* crops was good.

Floods (1915).—High flood visited the rivers of Darbhanga district during the month of August, 1915. Almost all the rivers spilled over their banks and caused inundation to the country side with the result that *bhadoi* crop in the area was badly damaged. Heavy rains in *Hathia* seriously affected the winter rice. The Burhi Gandak rose to a maximum level

of 154.35 (Rly. datum) equivalent to 157.63 G. T. S. datum at the railway bridge No. 1 in Samastipur-Darbhanga section of the railway line. This high flood level attained was only slightly lower than that of 1910 but it was about 2.5′ higher than that of last year. *Takavi* loans had to be distributed to alleviate the distress of the population.

Floods (1916).—Out of a total rainfall of 66.33″ during the year, 60.37″ precipitated between 1st of June to 30th of September. The rainfall was thus pretty heavy and all the rivers came in high floods.

The river Kamla rose to maximum H. F. L. of 191.16 (Rly. datum) near Rajnagar railway bridge No. 16A. Due to flood spill of the Kamla, the flood stage reached a level of 217.01 (Rly. datum) and 242.8 (Rly. datum) near railway culvert No. 22 and causeway in 24/4 mile of Sakri-Jayanagar section of the railway line. The railway line was overtopped and about 7′ to 8′ depth of water was flowing over the causeway. The spill escaping through the bridges and culverts in the railway line caused heavy inundation in a vast area on west of the railway line also.

The present Sakri Kamla which was then a local drainage channel got the spill from the main Kamla as well as from local run off and rose to a level of 163.91 (Rly. datum) at the railway bridge on west of Sakri railway station. The flood stage was almost to level with the formation level of the bridge at this site but it was overtopped at other places.

The Balan also rose to a maximum H. F. L. of 163.16 (Rly. datum) at bridge No. 88 on west of Jhanjharpur; it caused wide-spread inundation.

The Burhi Gandak rose almost to R. L. 153.05 against 154.35 of 1915 and caused severe inundation in its spill zone.

As a result of heavy flooding during 1915, the *bhadoi* crops as well as *aghani* crops were very badly damaged. Due to over-toppings and breaches in the railway embankments and the District Board roads, communication was also affected.

Floods (1919).—The river Kamla rose to R. L. 189.00 (Rly. datum) at railway bridge No. 16A near Rajnagar in Sakri-Jayanagar section of the railway line. The Balan also rose to R. L. 160.50 (Rly. datum) at the railway bridge No. 88 on west of Jhanjharpur railway station. The Burhi Gandak rather did not cause flood this year. It was nearly 12′ lower in level than last year and practically did not spill over its banks.

Floods (1920).—The rivers Kamla and the Balan had high floods during the year but there was not much flooding in the river Burhi Gandak. The river Kamla rose to R. L. 191.50 (Rly. datum) near railway bridge No. 16A in Sakri-Jayanagar section.

Similarly the Balan also registered high flood and rose to maximum H. F. L. of 162.25 (Rly. datum) at the railway bridge No. 88 on west of Jhanjharpur station spilling caused in the Kamla and Balan basins caused consequent damage to crops.

Floods (1921).—All the rivers in Darbhanga district were visted by floods of low intensity during the year. The Kamla rose to R. L. 189.67 at bridge No. 16A although the Burhi Gandak was about 4½′ higher than last year near Samastipur. There was, however, generally no spilling over its banks.

Floods (1922).—The river Kamla rose to R. L. 191.00 at bridge No. 16A and the Balan rose to R. L. 161.66 (Rly. datum) during the same year. The Burhi Gandak registered a rise near Samastipur but did not cause any abnormal situation as the level was quite low when compared to the highest level attained in the past. There was flooding in the Kamla basin but no serious damage occurred.

Floods (1924).—The Kamla rose to R. L. 190.00 at bridge No. 16A near Rajnagar. The Balan rose to R. L. 162.75 (Rly. datum) near Jhanjharpur. Burhi Gandak which did not rise during the last two years rose to sufficiently high level this year at Samastipur railway bridge. It was about 2′ lower than the highest recorded in the past years and was about two and half feet higher than the highest flood level attained during 1922. Both the Kamla and the Burhi Gandak caused inundation in their respective basins and affected crops adversely. Road communication was also affected. Flood level was about to overtop the railway line between Madhubani and Jayanagar at several places and the causeways were overtopped.

Floods (1926).—The river Kamla rose to H. F. L. of 190.41 (Rly. datum) at the bridge No. 16A in Sakri-Jayanagar section of the railway line near Rajnagar. The Railway line in parts including the causeways on north of Madhubani and Khajauli railway stations were overtopped and the spill escaping westwards inundated the villages on west of the railway line.

The Balan rose to H. F. L. of 164 (Rly. datum) at bridge No. 88 on west of Jhanjharpur railway station. This rise was higher even to the flood stage attained during the year 1916. A vast area on either bank of the Balan both on north and south of the railway line was inundated badly and the standing crops got damaged.

The river Burhi Gandak, however, was not abnormally high this year. It was about a foot or so higher, than last year but was about 6′ to 7′ lower than the maximum attained in the past near Samastipur railway birdge. There was spilling over the bank at low places which caused damage to crops.

Floods (1927).—The Kamla rose to H. F. L. of 193.00 at the bridge No. 16A near Rajnagar. More discharge passed through this bridge and the Patghat-Kamla crossing the railway bridge No. 77 was threatened. More flooding was caused along the Sakri branch of the Kamla on west of Pandaul and Sakri railway stations. Raiyam area was also affected.

Floods (1928).—The Kamla registered a H. F. L. of 192.75 (Rly. datum) during the monsoon of 1928 and created almost similar situation as in 1927 in its flood basin. The Railway line was overtopped near railway bridge No. 18 as also near railway bridge No. 20 in south and north of Khajauli railway station attaining flood stage of 202.80 and 209.75 (Rly. datum) respectively. Area around Madhubani was badly inundated.

There was heavy flood of river Balan on both north and south of the railway line west of Jhanjharpur.

Flood commenced in the district of Darbhanga in the first week of August. Parts of Madhubani and Sadar subdivisions and greater part of Samastipur subdivision remained submerged under water for a fortnight. About 75 per cent of the paddy crops in the area inundated was damaged and the *bhadoi* crop was completely destroyed. About Rs. 2 lakhs were distributed as agricultural loans by the Government and Rs. 50,000 was distributed by Co-operative banks. Rs. 12,000 was spent on gratuitous relief and on repairs to house, damaged by the floods. The damage caused to the District Board and Municipal roads was estimated at over one lakh of rupees.

Floods (1929).—The river Kamla rose to maximum H. F. L. of 193.50 (Rly. datum) at the birdge No. 16A in Sakri-Jayanagar section of railway line. The Balan river registered the maximum rise to R. L. 164.25 (Rly. datum) at railway bridge No. 88 on west of Jhanjharpur railway station. Overtopping of the Sakri-Jayanagar section at various spots was caused as usual and the spill escaping on west went to inundate the areas in Madhubani subdivision. Crops of the area inundated were very adversely affected.

Floods (1930).—The river Kamla rose to R. L. 193.5 (Rly. datum) at the Railway bridge No. 16A in Sakri-Jayanagar section of the railway line. This crossed the Sakri-Jayanagar section of line, at three places, viz., through bridge No. 16A, bridge No. 15, and bridge No. 7 and crossed the Sakri-Nirmali section through bridge No. 54. But this year after the river crossed through bridge No. 15 in Sakri-Jayanagar section, she abandoned her original course below Mohanpur village and diverted into the Jiwach course (a local drainage channel) through the Chutharidhar (another local spill channel). This course crossed the railway bridge No. 9 instead of the Railway bridge No. 7. The original course below Mohanpur got silted and deteriorated and the

on-slaught of flood shifted along this new course. The area on north of Darbhanga-Sakri road and on west of Sakri-Madhubani section of railway line very badly inundated and as a result crops were extensively damaged.

The Balan river rose to R. L. 161.00 at the railway bridge No. 88 and caused flooding in its basin as usual.

The Burhi Gandak also rose to very high level which resulted in heavy spilling in the country side with consequent damage to standing crops.

Floods (1931).—During the year 1931, the Kamla rose to maximum H. F. L. of 194.00 at the railway bridge No. 16A in Sakri-Nirmali section and caused increased flooding in the areas along the newly developed Kamla course through the Jiwachh. Crops were damaged as a result of this flooding and also due to heavy rains.

Relief works were organised and agricultural loans of over Rs. 4 lakhs were distributed to alleviate the distress.

Floods (1932).—The river Kamla registered a maximum H. F. L. of 193.25 (Rly. datum) at the Bridge No. 16A during the current monsoon. The flood caused damage in the Kamla basin areas.

Floods (1933).—The river Kamla experienced a sufficiently high flood stage of 195.50 (Rly. datum) at the railway bridge No. 16A, Balan rose to 161.50 (Rly. datum) at bridge No. 88 on west of Jhanjharpur railway station. Identical high flood was noticed in the river Burhi Gandak also which was only slightly lower than that of 1915 floods. Heavy floods combined with heavy rainfall in July and again in August caused much damage to crops and communications in the flood-affected areas in the district of Darbhanga. Another flood came in the month of October which also caused damage to standing crops. Takkavi loans and gratuitous relief were given to the flood-affected people.

Floods (1934).—There was flood in the river Kamla in the middle of July, 1934. The gauge at Rajnagar railway bridge No. 16A rose to maximum level of 195.94 (Rly. datum) equivalent to R. L. 191.64 G.T.S. while the gauge at Sakri railway bridge No. 54 rose to R. L. 160.76. Due to the closure of railway bridge No. 174, the bridge No. 16A could not cope with the discharge with the result that some spill discharge entered the abandoned Patghat course of the Kamla which spilled all over and combining with the spill of the river Balan inundated many villages. The discharge passing through bridge No. 16A was 18,614 cusecs at H. F. L. This caused spilling over the banks and inundation to villages on north and west of Madhubani.

The Balan also recorded a gauge of 163.00 in July, 1934. This also spilled over its banks and caused inundation to the country side.

Although there was comparatively less rainfall (average 17.18 inches) in July, 1934 than in July 1933 when it was 20.87" the intensity of flooding was more during 1934 due to disturbances caused in the topography of the country by the Great Bihar Earthquake of 1934.

The Kareh rose to R. L. 152.92 (G. T. S.) at Hayaghat railway bridge and combined with the discharge of Baghmati, spilling was caused almost in its entire run in the district and affected the standing crops in its spill zone. The Darbhanga-Baghmati also rose to a pretty high level, the gauge reading recorded at Ekmighat being 160.04 (G. T. S.).

The Burhi Gandak rose to R. L. 146.98 at the railway bridge No. 1 near Samastipur and caused moderate inundation in its basin in the district of Darbhanga although it registered pretty high floods in the district of Muzaffarpur.

The District Board roads falling in the spill zone of these rivers were breached and overtopped at various places rendering communication difficult.

Floods (1935).—The Kamla experienced floods twice during the year. The first flood came on 21st August 1935 when the Rajnagar gauge recorded a level of 192.70 G. T. S. equivalent to railway datum as 197.00. The second flood came on 5th September 1935 when Rajnagar gauge indicated a level of 192.40 G. T. S. The second flood was of longer duration and caused much damages. Khajauli, Madhubani and Bahera thanas were inundated. Maize and other *Bhadoi* crops were damaged and some *Katcha* houses collapsed. Flood spill entered homestead land in Jayanagar, Khajauli, Rajnagar and Benipatti. Water had entered Jayanagar Inspection Bungalow and Khajauli and Jayanagar station compounds were also inundated for the first time.

The whole of Rajnagar except the Raj palace area (which was protected by ring bundh constructed in 1934) was inundated. Madhubani town was protected from east by the ring bundh but its suburbs were badly affected. All the District Board roads were overtopped and breached at many places. The Sakri-Jayanagar section of the railway line was breached at four places between Khajauli and Jayanagar. Train services remained suspended for a number of days. Most of the Kamla discharge passed through Jiwachh and only little spill discharge entered the Patghat Kamla.

The river passed a discharge of 18,614 cusecs at railway bridge no. 16A near Rajnagar, the Patghat Kamla passed a discharge of 3,562 cusecs at crossing of Road no. 19 and the Sakri Kamla passed a discharge of 647 cusecs at railway bridge no. 54 near Sakri.

The Balan which rose to R. L. 162.42 (Railway datum) passed a maximum discharge of 5,808 cusecs at the railway bridge no. 88 on west of Jhanjharpur.

The Darbhanga Baghmati also rose to R. L. 161.34 as compared to 160.04 of last year and caused serious flooding all along.

The Kareh rose pretty high recording a H. F. L. of 153.92 (G. T. S.) at Hayaghat railway bridge and caused extensive flooding all along its course in the district of Darbhanga. There was a discharge of 28,907 cusecs at Hayaghat railway bridge. The river was joined by the spill of Kamla and Jiwachh in Rusera thana. Practically the whole of Rusera and Singia thanas were badly affected by flood and many houses collapsed.

The Burhi Gandak also rose pretty high this year and caused floods in July and in September. The gauge at Samastipur railway bridge recorded a maximum H. F. L. of 148.53 and at Rusera as 143.91 and passed a discharge of 26,189 cusecs at Rusera railway bridge. It spilled over the entire length in the Darbhanga district with spill depth varying from 2′ to 4′. Below Samastipur its spill joined with the spill of the Baghmati, and the Shanti badly affected the crops in the area. The roads were badly affected.

Floods (1936)

The Kamla recorded a peak gauge of 192.41 (G.T.S.) at Rajnagar in the evening of 16th August, 1936 and passed a maximum discharge of 12,642 cusecs. Between Jayanagar and Khajauli, the river spilled over its both banks. From Khajauli to Rajnagar the left bank spilling was rather serious and caused damages to crops and *katcha* houses. The spill crossing road no. 53 was drained by the Lakhandeyi Baya. Some spill had joined the Patghat Kamla also. The right banks spill extended upto Madhubani protective embankment and crossing bridge and cause ways nos 11, 12, 13, 14 and 11A had joined the Jiwachh course through the Chutaharidhar. Villages Pariharpur, Mangrapatti, Khor, Pilakhwar, Bheria, Bishanpur, Ranti, Kakba, Mahanpur, Hatti, etc. were badly affected. The deteriorated channel of the Patghat Kamla could not cope with the spill discharge and spilled over either banks inundating villages Lohna, Lalgung, Kharrak, Rupauli, Sarso, Sankorthi etc. with 3′ to 6′ of water. Below Patghat, the river spilled only the right bank from 1 mile to 2 miles in width and depth of the water was reported to two to three feet.

A portion of Jayanagar town on north of Road no. 114 was flooded with 6″ to 1′ depth of water. Rajnagar Bazar and its suburb villages were flooded and some *katcha* houses had collapsed. The waterways in the railway line between Pandaul and Rajnagar

stations were overtopped and the right abutment of bridge no. 16A was about to be outflanked.

The old Kamla spilled over its banks from Usrahi to Malmal with 1.5′ to 3′ depth and again below Benipatti to its confluence with Darbhanga-Baghmati where spill extended on both banks to a width of 1.5 mile and average depth 4′ to 5′. *Bhadoi* crop was partially damaged by the old Kamla. Autumn crop was very badly damaged in Bahera and Rusera thanas by the spill of the Jiwachh. The railway bridge over Jiwachh was under construction and train services were maintained by a diversion line. But when the diversion line was washed off due to floods railways communication between Darbhanga and Sakri remained suspended from 24th May 1936 to 31st May 1936.

The Sakri-Kamla recorded a peak gauge of 161.40 (Railway datum) on 18th September 1936 at Sakri railway bridge no. 14. This course carried a discharge of 379 cusecs only at Sakri railway bridge, 472 cusecs at Harsinghpur and 1,796 cusecs at Hatti-Supaul.

The river Balan was also in spate this year. It spilled over both banks below confluence of river Soni which extended 0.5 mile to 2 miles with average 2′ to 6′ depth of water over fields. fifty per cent of *marua* crop and 25 per cent of paddy crop were damaged in this area. The river carried a discharge of 2,937 cusecs at Jhanjharpur railway bridge no. 88. The Burhi Gandak was also in spate.

Floods (1937)

The Kamla recorded a gauge of 192.87 (G.T.S.) at Rajnagar railway bridge no. 164 on 7th October, 1937 and passed a maximum discharge of 21,000 cusecs. The discharge at Lakshmipur was observed to be 24,860 cusecs. This flood was of only 10 hours duration after which it began subsiding. Two more earlier floods had occurred in the Kamla on 10th August 1937 and again on 13th August 1937 when Rajnagar gauge recorded 192.77 (G.T.S.), the floods of 13th August 1937 had duration of 18 hours. The spill on the right banks had extended up to the railway line between Jayanagar and Khajauli and had partly crossed the railway line between 24 to 26 miles through existing waterways. The spill on the left bank extended from 2 to 3 miles with an average of 2′ to 5′ depth. The Kamla discharge caused serious inundation in Pariharpur, Belhwar, Ragheni, Khor, Mangropatti and threatened the ring bundh of Madhubani town. The railway line was overtopped opposite Madhubani station and damage was prevented by putting a narrow marginal bundh. Jayanagar, Rajnagar and Madhubani towns were also affected. There was about one foot depth of water in the compound of Jayanagar Inspection Bungalow.

The Railway quarters at Rajnagar and the bazar area and sub-urban villages were flooded.

Railway communications between Rajnagar and Madhubani were interrupted several times when there was deep water over the railways causeway in the 12th mile. Train services between Rajnagar and Jayanagar were also suspended for a day when there was deep water over the causeway in the 25th mile.

The Jiwachh spilled over its banks above Nima as its own discharge was held back by higher Kamla floods. Below Nima up to its outfall into the Sakri near Khesraha, it spilled over its both banks. *Bhadoi* crops were greatly damaged in Bahera and Rusera thanas while the standing paddy crops were affected considerably in Darbhanga and Bahera thanas.

The Kareh recorded a maximum gauge of 141.54 at Hayaghat railway bridge during high floods in 1937 as against 153.17 in the last year. It passed a maximum discharge of 24,976 cusecs at said bridge. The Darbhanga Baghmati recorded a maximum flood stage of 159.42 as against 159.72 of last year.

Floods (1938)

Practically the whole of Tirhut Division had experienced a very severe flood this year. The Kamla had recorded a high flood level of 193.20 (G.T.S.) on 1st August 1938 at Rajnagar railway bridge no. 16A and maintained this level practically for the whole day after which it started receding. But high flood stage continued for about a month or so with slight fluctuations in the gauge with the result that extensive damage was caused.

Jayanagar, Khajauli, Rajnagar and Madhubani towns were affected and spill water had entered the town area. The railway communication was frequently interrupted between Madhubani and Rajnagar owing to deep water over causeway no. 11 A where the maximum depth recorded was 3.6' The railway line on south of Khajauli was threatened but damage was abated due to timely protective measures. The railway line was overtopped over a length of 200' on north-east of Madhubani. The river passed a discharge of 19,872 cusecs through the railway bridge no. 16A at peak flood stage.

The old Kamla also registered a peak flood in the last week of August the level being about a foot higher than in 1937. It spilled over its banks to an average depth of 2'.

The Jiwachh course recorded its peak gauge of 156.25 at Tarsarai railway bridge in the first week of August and caused similar flooding in its basin as in the year 1937.

The Balan rose to the peak level of 162.16 (Railway datum) at railway bridge no. 88 near Jhanjharpur. There was ordinary spilling over its banks to Daldal. But at this place Kosi spill escaping through the breach in the right embankment of the Tiljuga joined this and created intense flooding up to Bakaunia.

The Sakri passed discharge of 611 cusecs at Tarsarai railway bridge, 1,739 cusecs at Harsinghpur *ghat* and 1,970 cusecs at Hanti-Supaul. The Jiwachh passed a discharge of 8,160 cusecs at Jhanjharpur railway bridge.

An area of 670 square miles was inundated by various Kamla channels above in the district of Darbhanga.

The Darbhanga-Baghmati also recorded a very high flood this year. The Darbhanga-Baghmati was reinforced by the flood spill of the Baghmati which came flowing from field to field parallel to the railway embankment from Dheng to Janakpur road, combining with the Adhwara rivers was ultimately carried down by the Darbhanga-Baghmati. The Pali Bardaha embankments were breached and villages Pali, Baradaha, Raghauli, etc. were badly inundated. Paddy and *bhadai* crops were badly damaged.

The Kareh also rose to railway line 153.92 at Hayaghat railway bridge and passed a peak discharge of 29,941 cusecs. The river spilled heavily all along its course. The left bank spill breached the Hayaghat-Bahera bundh at several places and inundated the country on north and east of the said bundh and passed eastwards in Rusera thana. The left bank spill flowing south-east combined with that of the Shanti inundated a large tract of land. The spill drained down into the Baghmati and then ultimately into the Burhi Gandak at Shivaisinghpur. There was practically no area in Singia and Rusera thanas which escaped flooding.

The Burhi Gandak rose to peak flood stage of 143.78 at Samastipur railway bridge and passed a discharge of 18,545 cusecs. It rose to R. L. 143.41 at Rusera railway and passed a maximum discharge of 39,603 cusecs. It spilled over its entire length in the district of Darbhanga. The left bank spill below Samastipur extended from ½ mile to 1 mile and joined with the spill of the Shanti and Baghmati. Rusera thana was badly inundated and the crops suffered serious damages. Almost all roads in the flood-affected areas were badly overtopped and breached with the result that communication on them remained suspended for a long time.

Floods (1939)

The river Kamla experienced two major floods during the year. In the first flood, a peak gauge of 192.20 was recorded at

railway bridge no. 16-A and in the second, it recorded a gauge of 192.45 on 29th July, 1930 at the same place. The flood was of short duration and not much damage was caused.

The channel on the west of bridge no. 16A inundated village Pariharpur, Raghauni etc. and threatened the Madhubani town protected embankment. It passed a discharge of 15,891 cusecs at bridge no. 16A.

The Jiwachh recorded its highest gauge of 155.75 on 28th July 1939 and caused flooding in its area as in the year 1938 but the duration of the flood being very short.

The Balan rose to R. L. 152.70 (Railway datum) at Jhanjharpur railway bridge no. 88 and there was no spilling over its banks except below Daldal which was mainly due to Kosi flood spill.

The railway communication between Rajnagar and Madhubani remained suspended from 21st July 1939 to 23rd July 1939 as there was 1.8 feet depth of water over the causeway no. 11A bridge across the Chutharidhar on Road no. 18 which had been threatened in 1938 was washed off this year.

Floods (1940 *and* 1941)

Intensity of flood in the district of Darbhanga in the years 1940 and 1941 was identical except in the case of river Balan which was higher in 1941 by about 2′ and in the case of Darbhanga-Baghmati which was higher by above 08·4′.

H. F. L. discharge of various rivers during the monsoons of 1940 and 1941 are given below :

Name of river.	H.F.L. 1940.	Maximum discharge in cusecs 1940.	H.F.L. 1941.	Maximum discharge in cusecs 1941.
1. River Kamla-Rajnagar railway bridge no. 16A.	192.73 (G.T.S.)	19,341	192.30 (G.T.S.) on 17th July 1941.	15,390
2. Balan at Jhanjharpur railway bridge no. 88.	157.54 (Rly. datum).	..	159.50 (Rly. datum).	5,027
3. Darbhanga-Baghmati at Ekmighat.	158.90 (G.T.S.)	..	159.74 (G.T.S.)	..
4. Kareh at Hayaghat ..	151.67 (G.T.S.)	18,237	151.42 (G.T.S.)	23,049
5. Burhi Gandak at Samastipur at bridge no. 1.	146.98 (G.T.S.)	22,355	146.78 (G.T.S.)	18,290
6. Burhi Gandak at Rusera railway bridge.	140.16	25,575	140.16	19,157
7. Jiwachh at Tarsarai ..	..	..	154.23 on 31st July 1941.	..

The duration of the flood in both these years was very short and so caused little damage to standing crops. But Rajnagar Bazar area and the compound of the railway quarters were flooded. Flood water had entered some houses as well. The railway communication between Jayanagar and Pandaul was interrupted on 17th July 1941. The flood water threatened the railway between Jayanagar and Khajauli and the causeway in the 25th mile which was under 2.1' depth of water was badly scoured during 1941. Railway bridge no. 16A was also badly threatened, 1.17' depth of water was flowing over the Madhubani causeway.

The Patghat course was spilled over at places but all spills subsided quick and no damage was caused. The Jiwachh course also spilled over in almost its entire length, the spill extending from 0.25 mile to 3 miles on each bank and depth varying from 2' to 4.5' over fields and 1' to 1.5' in village. Jiwachh spill reached the old Kamla near Gausaghat on its left bank. *Bhadoi* crop was completely damaged and the paddy crops also suffered damages in Darbhanga thana. The masonry bridge of 6 spans of 18' each was protected both in 1940 and 1941 by constructing guide banks of bandelling.

The Balan spilled over both the banks from Barhi to Rasiari the spill extending from 0.5 mile to 2 miles and depth varying from 2' to 5.5'. There was prolonged and intense flooding in its tail reach because of the Kosi spill joining the Balan spill. The Balan passed a discharge of 5,627 cusecs in 1941 peak flood.

The flood condition in the river Gandak and Kareh basins was almost the same as in the year 1937.

Floods (1942)

The Kamla had a very high flood in the year 1942, the maximum gauge recorded at Rajnagar railway bridge no. 16A was 193.45 (G.T.S.) which exceeded the maximum flood of the year 1938. A similar flood situation as in the year 1938 was created in the Kamla basin and the railway line and roads were extensively overtopped causing interruption in the communication. Standing crops were badly damaged.

Floods (1943)

The Kamla rose to R. L. 191.70 (G. T. S.) at the railway bridge no. 16A near Rajnagar. Although the flood was lower than that of last year, it covered a large area under inundation causing damages to standing crops in low pockets. The roads falling in the spill zone were under water and vehicular traffic was interrupted.

The Burhi Gandak rose to R. L. 145.03 (G. T. S.) at the railway bridge no. 1 near Samastipur, spilled over its banks at several places and caused inundation to the country side.

The Burhi Gandak rose to R. L. 146.28 (G. T. S.) at Samastipur railway bridge no. 1 and to railway 146.28 at the Rusera railway bridge.

Floods (1946)

During the year 1946, the Darbhanga District experienced heavy floods and almost all the rivers were in spate.

The Kamla rose high and attained almost the same level as in 1935 causing identical flood situation and consequent damages to crops. A vast area in different parts of the district of Darbhanga remained submerged under water and road and rail communication was also interrupted at various points.

The Burhi Gandak rose to R. L. 147.86 on 15th September 1945 at Samastipur railway bridge no. 1 and to R. L. 1941.16 at the Rusera railway bridge. The Kamla attained almost the same level as in the year 1943 and caused damage to crops. The low lying areas in the north and west of Madhubani were affected severely. The river Kareh was lower by about 2′ than last year. The Burhi Gandak rose also high at Samastipur railway bridge no. 1 indicating a level of 148.03 (G. T. S.) on 16th August 1947 but it indicated a level of 141.16 (G. T. S.) at Rusera railway bridge. Heavy spilling was caused almost in its entire run in the district of Darbhanga with consequent damage to crops and road communication.

Floods (1953).

In 1953 all the rivers of North Bihar were in spate. The floods caused considerable damage. A detailed enquiry was made by the Irrigation Department, the findings of which were noted in the North Bihar Flood Report, 1953. The general description of flood caused by each river of the district was as follows:—

Kamla.—The river vouchsafes in the hills of Nepal and is fed by the local rainfall and its catchment area which is approximately 750 square miles.

The river was in high spate on the 22nd July 1953 and remained so till the 1st August, 1963. From Jayanagar to Trimohanighat, the river spilled over both its banks at several places and caused heavy damage to standing crops. Flood water also spilled through homestead areas and several *katcha* houses were collapsed. The river Jiwachh which used to draw a portion of its discharge became silted and so all the flood water passing through Jiwachh spilled and flooded the country. The

highest gauge recorded was on 27th July at railway bridge no. 16A.

The railway communication between Rajnagar and Madhubani, and Madhubani and Pandaul remained suspended for some days due to water flowing over causeway. The trolly lines between Tarsarai to Ryam Sugar Factory and Ryam to Nagdumpur were also badly affected. Almost all the District Board roads in the Kamla basin were closed to vehicular traffic throughout the monsoon. There were eight floods in this river during 1953.

Jiwachh.—It is a local stream and gets its supply from the rainfall in the local catchment. As the bed had silted up, the water could not be drained out. It spilled over its banks due to high discharge in the river Kamla which joins it near Jagatpur. The spill water came through the channels. The highest flood occurred on the 17th September, 1953.

Dhaus and Thomane.—There had been high floods in the rivers Dhaus and Thomane. The flood came on the 17th July and reached its peak on 27th July, 1953. The rivers spilled over their lengths and caused extensive damages to standing crops, homesteads and communication was also affected.

All the rivers of the Adhwara group, which fall into the river Dhaus, were in spate. Heavy rainfall in the basin as well as heavy spilling of the Baghmati above Dhang were the main causes of the rising of these two rivers.

Darbhanga-Baghmati.—The river was in high flood and spilled vigorously over both banks from Raghauli to Hayaghat. The private bundh near Ekmaghat which protects Laheriasarai was also threatened. Mud-built houses and standing crops were damaged much.

Khiroi.—The river was in high flood during the last week of July. 1953. Being shallow, the channel section was incapable to cope with the cummulative discharge coming from the Adhwara system. The villages Agropatti, Shiwanagar, Shahpur, Massa, Deora, Bandhauli and Muraithe, etc. were badly affected and the *bhadoi* crops were totally washed away. Jogiara railway station was surrounded by a vast sheet of water which entered into the main station building as well.

Muzaffarpur-Baghmati.—The Muzaffarpur-Baghmati comes from Muzaffarpur and spills into the river Burhi Gandak near village Siwaisinghpur. The major discharge of the river passes through Kareh which has perennial supply.

Below Hayaghat the spill channel known as old Baghmati spilled vigorously. Its left bank spill joined the spill of the Kareh and Burhi Gandak and the spill of the river Shanti supplemented its right bank spill.

Most of the *bandhs* including chamar *bandh* situated on its right bank, were overtopped and breached; and similarly the left bank *bandh* also gave way before the spill water of flood. The villages Khanpur, Fatehpur, Nathudwar, Buzurg dwar, Chamarbandha, Dhar, Siwaisinghpur, Therh etc. of Warisnagar police station and Punwa, Sadhuka, Motipur, Rasulpur, Rajwara, Hasanpur, Basantpur, Bithan and Belhi, etc. of Rusera police station were inundated. The *bhadoi* and sugarcane crops were damaged.

Shanti.—It orginates from Barohar near village Chanpur in Muzaffarpur district and passing through a bridge having 18 spans of 18′ and 15 spans of 20′ in Samastipur-Darbhanga branch of the North-Eastern Railway near Hayaghat, falls in the river Muzaffarpur-Baghmati, near Laltol. In the latter part of July this river was also in high flood. All the standing crops were damaged and the area between Hayaghat and Muktapur appeared like a vast sheet of water. Two piers of the existing railway bridge on the river got damaged with the result that all the trains to and from Samastipur had to stop and pass slowly over this bridge.

Kareh.—The rivers Muzaffarpur-Baghmati and Darbhanga-Baghmati join a little above Hayaghat and the combined course down this point called the Kareh which fall in the river Kamla near the border of Monghyr district. The river was in high spate during the latter part of July and the 1st part of August. Its H.F.L. as recorded at Hayaghat was 154.047 on 31st July, 1953. All the private bundhs situated along its bank gave way which inundated the vast area in Warisnagar and Singia police stations. All the roads falling in the basin of the river became impassable. The Rusera-Punula and Rusera-Singia roads were breached at several places.

Burhi Gandak—This river like other rivers was also in high flood. It began to rise in the second week of July and remained so till 3rd August 1953 when the gauge at Samastipur railway bridge recorded 152.15 and the highest reading recorded at Rusera railway bridge was 144.65 on 4th August 1953. Above Samastipur, the river spilled on its left bank everywhere in Darbhanga district. Samastipur-Darbhanga road was under about knee-deep

water. Between Muktapur and Birsinghpur, one private *bandh*, known as Muktapur *bandh*, lying on the left bank. gave way and the spill passed through this breach and joined with the spill comming from Jathmalpur side, and the Santi-spill inundated a vast area of Warisnagar P. S. on both sides of the railway line between Muktapur and Kishanpur. Down Samastipur, all the existing private *bandhs* (i.e., Nathpur *bandh*, Siwaisinghpur *bandh* and Chamarbandha *bandh*, Kalwara *bandh*) lying on its left bank were overtopped and breached at several places and the spill passing through the breaches inundated a vast area of Warisnagar and Rusera Police-Stations, villages Bhore Jairam, Nathudwar, Siwaisinghpur, Chamarbandha, etc., of Warisnagar Police-Station and Rajwara, Kalwara, Rahua, Rusera, Bethan, Belahi, Hasanpur, Rasulpur, Madhepur, Pipra, Basantpur, Badah, etc., of Rusera Police-Station were badly affected. All the standing crops of the area were washed away and a large number of mud-built houses had collapsed.

Dakash and Dariha, the two existing private *bandhs* on the right bank of the river gave way and a vast area of Dalsingsarai Police Station was inundated. The *bandh* was repaired later on when water began to recede and the area remained protected from the next flood which came in September, 1953.

The devastation caused by the floods of 1953 to standing crops, habitations and communications was immensely considerable. A total area of 351 square miles in the Kosi belt and 570 square miles in non-Kosi belt was affected by a series of floods in 1953, and comprised 1,736 villages. Relief measures in shape of gratuitous relief, hard manual schemes and light manual schemes were taken to alleviate the sufferings of the people. A sum of Rs. 2,58,835 was spent on gratuitous relief, Rs. 5,66,187 on hard manual schemes and Rs. 14,891 on light manual schemes Medical and Veterinary measures were taken in the flood-stricken areas to check the spread of epidemics.

Floods (1954)

All the rivers of the North Bihar were in spate and the floods caused a very heavy damage to Darbhanga distrct. About 2,500 square miles had become one sheet of water and 2,501 villages had suffered. About 32,050 houses either collapsed or damaged. Government had to take measures for gratuitous relief and give loans, subsidies, etc. A sum of Rs. 9,70,826 was spent on gratuitous relief, Rs. 20,96,114 on hard manual scheme, Rs. 3,42,268 on light

manual scheme, Rs. 63,186 on medical and Rs. 43,500 on veterinary relief.

The flood which visited North Bihar was almost unprecedented in intensity but of short duration, though the rainfall which caused this intense flooding was very mild indeed. About three-fourths of Darbhanga Sadar subdivision and about one-fourth of Madhubani subdivision had been affected by the spill of the Kamla, Jiwachh and Balan rivers. The worst affected areas were the Kshirbibasin between Kamtaul and Jogiara railway stations of North Eastern Railway. In this region a vast sheet of water had damaged vegetation. *Bhadoi* crop was washed away and a large number of attached and mud-built houses had collapsed.

The Baghmati rose to highest level at midnight of 26th July, 1954 and its flood water had spilled vigorously across its banks above the Dheng bridge. The subsequent flood of the Purani dhar, the Lakhandeyi and the Adhawara system of rivers and finally the Dhauns was due to the spilling of the Baghmati. All these rivers worked as the spill channels draining off the spill water of the Baghmati.

River Khiroi

The flood of Khiroi was so intense that the course of the railway embankment and the road as it was one sheet of water. Water was running full under the screw pile bridge of North Eastern Railway and the other 9′×20′ masonry bridge. All the culverts between Jogiara and Kamtaul railway stations were affected as swirling water was running full under them. The Darbhanga-Muzaffarpur road was under water.

River Dhaus

This river was also in high flood. She spilled vigorously near village Raghuali along Kamtaul-Pupri road. The spill water submerged the areas on both sides between Kamtaul and Mohammadpore railway station.

River Lakhandeyi

A high flood visited the west side crossing all bridges in the P.W.D. road with great velocity. The high discharge caused collapse of the bridge on the seventh mile of the Darbhanga Samastipur P. W. D. road. The flood started from river Muzaffarpur-Baghmati where she joins the Lakhandeyi at Kalanjarghat. Thus the spill of Baghmati which falls in Lakhandeyi rejoined Baghmati at Kalanjarghat and this water spill drowned the area of Darbhanga Sadar subdivision.

River Jhanjharpur Balan

This river spilled badly across both its bank on account of which the areas stretching about two miles east of Manigachi railway station were submerged under water. The railway line to the east of Jhanjharpur railway station was overtopped by about 2 ft. depth of water. The railway bridge no. 81 to the east of the Lakhandeyi-Baha drainage channel and the bridge no. 80 crossing this drainage channel were badly affected leading to suspension of train service beyond Manigachi railway station. The discharge passing through bridge no. 81 was about 13,000 cusecs and that passing through bridge no. 80 about 15,000 cusecs as observed roughly on 29th July 1954. The main direction of the flow of flood water was from north-east to south-west. The villages lying between Patghat Kamla and the Jhanjharpur-Balan right from north to south were all submerged under 4 to 8 ft. depth of water leading to the collapse of the mudbuilt houses and destruction of the standing crops. The train service beyond Manigachi railway station remained suspended for a few days.

The then excavated Lakhandeyi Baha drainage channel was completely drowned with its marginal embankment along with its whole length and no trace of the crest of the bundh was visible from above. The onrush of flood at the site of the anti-flood sluice was so sudden that the water level rose about 3 ft. higher than last year's level. The whole area was turned into a vast sheet of water stretching for miles and miles.

River Kamla

There was a heavy flood in the river Kamla. The reading at the gauge at bridge no. 16A rose to 195.75 on 26th July, 1954. It started subsiding from 28th July, 1954 and on 31st July, 1954 the gauge was 194.00.

The train service over the causeway was suspended on 26th July, 1954. The maximum depth of water flowing over the causeway was seen to be 3—10''. The river Kamla reached high level at bridge no. 9 also causing suspension of train service beyond Pandaul for some time.

Floods (1960)

After 1954, there had been floods in every successive year but their intensity was not great. But in 1960 the district suffered due to overflow of the rivers Burhi Gandak and Baghmati. As there was heavy and continued rainfall in the last week of August and first week of September, 1960 the river Burhi Gandak was in high flood. The H. F. L. of the river attained at Pusa road bridge and Samastipur railway bridge were 163.10 and 153.66 against

danger levels of 161.10 and 151.00 respectively. However, the flood water remained confined within the embankments and damage caused to standing crops was less.

The river Baghmati was also in spate and spilled through its bank in the district of Darbhanga. The river is embanked in the district from Hayaghat to Sirsia on the left and from Hayaghat to Karachin in the right bank and also from Hayaghat to Sarmarghat, and hence the flood water remained within the embankments.

The short summary of the floods gives us certain basic facts. The district is intercepted by a number of rivers originating from Nepal. The reports will indicate that 25 or 30 years back floods were practically confined to the western and south-eastern parts of the district and were caused by the over-flowing of the rivers like Kareh, Kamla, Baghmati and Gandak, etc. Each of these rivers had more or less a definite course and the area under the floods was easy to locate from before and necessary precautionary measures taken in advance and the consequent damage was, therefore, less extensive. It was for the first time in 1937 that the river Kosi which was so long flowing through the district of Bhagalpur suddenly joined Tiljuga on the north-eastern corner of the district and since then this "river of sorrow" has been causing havoc and devastation in the entire eastern half of the district. The western swing of the Kosi which was becoming more pronounced every year had been threatening the safety of the central portion of the district as well. In his final reports on floods in 1950-51 the Collector had reported that Kosi menace was growing every year.

It will also appear that the Sadar subdivision of the Darbhanga district is usually flooded by rivers like Kareh, Baghmati, Jiwachh, Kamla, Balan, Burnad and Kosi. Madhubani subdivision is flooded by rivers Kamla, Jiwachh and Kosi while Samastipur subdivision by the rivers Kareh, Gandak, Ganga and Kosi.

The Geographical and Statistical Report of the district of Tirhut by A. Wyatt, Revenue Surveyor, published in 1854 shows that the incidence of floods was present even in the middle of the 19th century but the recital of Wyatt suggests that the impact was probably not so intence. Wyatt does not mention of any devastating floods and his references make out that the floods in Darbhanga were temporary and the spill-water would spread out quickly without making the damage of the present times. Another fact which is made out from Wyatt's description is that many of the rivers in Darbhanga district were navigable for boats with heavy loads. While describing the Pergunnah Sureysa he mentions that the "principal rivers are the Boorh Gunduk, or the little Gunduk, which forms a natural boundary and skirts the Pergunnah to the north and the east, and is navigable throughout the year for boats

of 700 maunds and upward during the rains ; by the Baya, which skirts the Pergunnah to the south and that the Jumooaree, None, Kudaneh, Kumreen and Bulan which intersect it. These are navigable during the rains only for small boats of 400 or 500 maunds tonnage". In his description of Pergunnah Bhurwareh he mentions that "there are no rivers or *nuddees* in this Pergunnah, save the little Bagmuttee which skirts the eastern boundary for a very short distance in three places, and the Boorhnah which is an insignificant stream, flowing only during the rains." In his description of Pergunnah Bureyl he mentions that the "principal rivers are the little Gunduk, which skirts this Pergunnah on the south-west separating Pergunnah Bisaroh ; and the Bagmuttee, which intersects it. Both these are navigable throughout the year for boats of 500 to 700 maunds tonnage ; and the Bagmuttee on the high roads from Moozufferpoor to Durbhunga, and from Poosah to Durbhunga." While describing Pergunnah Kusmeh he mentions the little Gunduk river forming a natural boundary and "the Bagmuttee river intersects this Pergunnah, besides the Bhooarey *nuddee* and some minor nullahs and streams". In his description of the Darbhanga town, he mentioned that "the town of Durbhunga is built on rather a low spot, and is like the lands of this Pergunnah, subject to inundations from the little Bagmuttee and the Kumla* rivers. Embankments have been erected to preserve the town ; but the remedy causes the flood waters to lodge in the surrounding ditches and hollows which stagnate and render the place very insalubrious, immediately after the rains ; when the intermittent fever, and its after consequences, the enlargement of the spleen become prevalent. About 1/4 of the land of this Pergunnah is under cultivation, including vegetable and garden lands; nearly half of it is occupied with *pukka* and *kucha* houses, sheds and govels ; and about 1/4 with mango-groves, tanks, waste and water." Regarding Pergunnah Pindarooj he mentions that "the principal rivers are the little Bagmuttee, the Kumla, Soogowna and Murneh, the two first named being navigable for small boats of 200 or 300 maunds tonnage. The high roads from Durbhunga to Junukpoor via Kumtowl, to Purneah via Pundowl factory, and to Bhowareh Thannah, intersect this Pergunnah." These quotations are purposely given to bring out the fact that Darbhanga district does not appear to have been so much vulnerable to floods in 1854 as she is now. In contrast of this description by Wyatt in 1854, we will only emphasise some details of some of the recent floods to highlight the present incidence. This repetition in spite of short summaries given before appears necessary.

In 1950-51 the Kosi floods came in the second week of June and almost the same level was maintained till the second week of July after which, there was a rise in the level. The month of August, however, experienced the worst phase of the floods. Commencing

* The spelling has been preserved (P.C.R.C.)

from the second week of August, the flood level recorded rise continuously till the end of that month, exceeding highest flood level of 1949, by about 2 feet. In the first week of September, the level was practically stationary and it started receding thereafter, and had completely receded by the second week of October, after which the Kosi water remained only in areas which were permanently water-logged throughout the year. In the non-Kosi belt, floods came in the wake of heavy showers following the night of 15th August, 1950, and the level recorded in the Baghmati belt of Sadr subdivision exceeded that of 1949. The Kamla and Balan floods threatened Madhubani town itself in the third week of August. The floods of the Ganga flooded the *diara* villages in Mohiuddinagar Police Station of Samastipur subdivision, during the second and third week of August. These floods receded quickly. In the floods of 1950-51 the worst affected areas from the floods of Kosi are parts of Phulparas Police Station, greater part of Madhepur Police Station in Madhubani subdivision, comprising an area of 168 square miles, affecting 131 villages with population of about 87,675; Biraul Police Station in Sadar subdivision with an area of 100 square miles and affected 110 villages involving a population of 1 lakh; Singia Police Station in Samastipur subdivision with an area of 80 square miles covering 135 villages including *tolas* and affecting a population of 40,000 persons. The totals are an area of 348 square miles, 376 villages and 2,27,675 people.

Non-Kosi Belt.—The Kamla and Balan floods in the Madhubani subdivision comprising an area of 75 square miles involving 28 villages and affecting a population of about 20,000 in Sadar subdivision the south-western and northern part of Sadar Police Station, south and northern parts of Bahera Police Stations and the northern parts of Jale Police Station were inundated by rivers Kareh, Baghmati, Kamla, Jiwachh, Balan and Durnad by which 20 villages were badly affected covering an area of about 75 square miles and involving a population of 30,000 people, in Samastipur subdivision, Rusera, Warisnagar and Mohiuddinagar Police Stations by rivers Kareh, Gandak and Ganga over an area of 170 square miles affecting 119 villages and involving a population of 1,10,000 persons in the worst affected areas of these Police Stations totals 320 square miles, 167 villages and 1,60,000 people.

From the Collector's flood report of Darbhanga for 1954-55 a statement on the floods and the extent of damages has been prepared—

Date of floods.	Thana affected.	Rivers responsible for flood.
27-4-1954	Madhepur ..	The Kosi.
	Phulparas ..	The Kosi, the Bhutahi Balan.
	Jhanjharpur ..	The Bhutahi Balan and the Balan.
	Madhubani .	The Kamla and the Jiwachh.
	Jayanagar.	
	Khajauli.	

Date of floods.	Thana affected.	Rivers responsible for flood.
	Laukaha Ladania	.. The Balan.
29-7-1954	Madhwapur .. Harlakhi .. Benipatti .. Jale Darbhanga Sadar	The Jiwachh, the Dhaus, the Kokra, the Burnad, the Baghmati and Lakhandehi.
	Singia	.. The Kosi.
31-7-1954	Darbhanga Sadar.. Bahera .. Biraul	The Kareh, the Kosi, the Jiwachh and the Balan.
3-8-1954	Tajpur .. Samastipur .. Warishnagar Rusera and Singia	The Kareh, the Burhi Gandak. The Jamuara and the Baya.
	Dalsinghsarai	.. The Burhi Gandak and the Baya.

The following statement shows the extent of damages caused by the floods of 1954-55:—

Total area of the district.	Total area affected by the floods.	Percentage
21,33,429 acres	13,85,990 acres	65

Total culturable area of the district.	Total culturable area affected by floods.	Percentage
19,25,003 acres	12,97,406 acres	65

Total population of the district.	Total population affected.	Percentage.
37,67,798	19,76,771	52

Total number of villages in the district.	Total number of villages affected.	Percentage.
3,438	2,501	73.4

The following table shows the damage to crops and the money value of the same :—

	Total area under cultivation.	Total area damaged.	Value of damage.	Percentage.
	Acres.	Acres.	Rs.	
Paddy ..	13,45,690	9,55,580	3,99,63,429	70
Bhadai ..	3,93,826	3,15,826	1,74,80,964	70
Total ..	17,39,516	12,67,406	5,74,44,393	..

Total number of houses damaged.	Value of damage to houses and household affected.	No. of roads damaged.	Value of damage.	Human lives lost.	Cattle lost.
	Rs.		Rs.		
32,950	33,95,000	100	6,00,000	13	500

The total damage due to floods may be valued as follows :—

		Rs.
(a)	Value of damage to crops	5,74,44,393
(b)	Value of damage to houses and household effects.	33,95,000
(c)	Value of damage to embankments ..	6,00,000
(d)	Value of damage to roads	16,00,000
(e)	Value of damage to culverts and bridges ..	2,00,000
(f)	Value of cattle lost or washed away ..	25,000
(g)	Direct cost of relief incurred so far ..	15,00,000
	GRAND TOTAL	6,47,04,393

In 1958-59 the overflooding started from the fourth week of July. The peak level was reached in the middle of August and thereafter it started receding slowly but gradually. There was rise in its level again in the middle of August. By the end of October the flood water receded completely.

The other rivers of the district also reached their peak discharge in the last week of August inundating considerable areas of low lying lands. The area affected was 1,639,48 square miles and the population affected was 2,215,000.

The summary of the reports of the yearly floods will also indicate that the railway lines and culverts have been responsible to a large degree for the recurring floods in Darbhanga district. There are certain specific points in railway lines which are usually over-flooded or breached. From this, one may draw the conclusion that the railway lines were probably not laid after a thorough investigation of the lie of the countryside. Definitely the railway lines needed many more of culverts. At the same time, the changing of the course of Kosi river could, of course, never have been anticipated by the engineers when they made the survey for the laying of the railway lines. In this connection, it may be mentioned that the great earthquake of 1934 had also underlined the necessity of creating a separate Waterways Division for North Bihar. The Waterways Division of Tirhut owes its origin to the earthquake of 1934. The problems of the floods in North Bihar have engaged the attention of the engineers and the administrators since a very long time. Sri P. C. Ghosh, an Executive Engineer was specially deputed to write a report which he did and his survey was published. At that time the idea was that there should be a similar report brought out from time to time which, however, was not implemented. The recent floods of 1953-54 were again investigated into and a useful survey report was compiled. The Waterways Division now forming an important adjunct of the administration, the problem is now being more scientifically tackled. It has been necessary to demolish many of the private bundhs which had been raised with parochial

interests and the Waterways Division has been engaged in projects which are expected to free the district comparatively from the menace of floods. The taming of the great Kosi river is also calculated to bring a good deal of change in the riverine district in Darbhanga.

FAMINES

Regarding early famines the last *District Gazetteer of Darbhanga* (1907) mentions as follows:—

"In the early years of British administration, hardly a year passed without the record of some natural calamity; in one year it was drought, in the next inundation, and in either case the people were hard put to it to withstand distress. The earliest famine of which we possess any detailed record is that of 1769-70, when one-third of the population of Bengal is said to have perished, and Darbhanga suffered like the other districts of Bihar. A serious drought followed in 1783, and advances had to be made for the relief of the cultivators, though the scarcity did not culminate in actual famine. The years 1787 and 1788 were no more propitious, as the country was inundated, the cattle died in large numbers, and the crops failed. Drought again caused scarcity in 1791, when all persons, except grain dealers, were arbitrarily prohibited from keeping by them more than one year's supply of grain. There was another drought in 1804; in 1806 the *bhadoi* crop was entirely destroyed by floods, and the *aghani* was threatened; and in 1809 there was considerable suffering owing to the failure of all the principal crops.

Famine of 1866

"Though great distress was caused by these failures of the crops, they did not culminate in actual famine; and the first great famine of the 19th century was that of 1866. In the north of Tirhut, the rice crops had failed partially in 1863, and even more so in 1864. In October, 1865, with the prospect of an even more complete failure on the Nepal frontier, and a deficiency of the rice crops in Madhubani and the north of the present headquarters subdivision, the price of rice and Indian corn rose to three times the ordinary rate, and cases of suicide from starvation and of deaths from want of food began to be reported. The harvesting of the rice crop, however, temporarily supplied both food and wages, and prices at the end of 1865, and in the beginning of 1866, were somewhat easier. In February, prices again began to rise; the usual grain supply from Nepal ceased; and as there was no demand for labour the poorer classes suffered extremely, and began to desert their homesteads and migrate southwards in large numbers, while fires and grain-robberies for the purpose of obtaining food became very common. The period from April to June never affords much

employment to labourers, and this class, having nothing to fall back on, was reduced to the greatest destitution. No organised system of relief was commenced till June, but eventually relief operations were undertaken at 9 centres, 4 in the Darbhanga and 5 in the Madhubani subdivision. The suffering was greatest during July, August and September, the price of rice ranging from 7 to 5¼ seers per rupee. In the middle of August cholera broke out, and the people reduced by long privation, fell easy victims to the disease. In September the extreme pressure began to diminish, owing to the good *bhadoi* or autumn crops; and fortunately it never increased again, as the winter rice, in most parts, was a good crop. Still, in some places, famine, disease, and desertion had so debilitated or diminished the population, that half the land remained uncultivated, and relief operations had to be carried on till February, 1867.

Famine, 1874

"The next great famine occurred only 8 years afterwards. The year 1873 was the last of a series of three years which were marked by abnormal rainfall and generally unusual weather. The year 1871 was unusually wet; the following year was equally dry; while in 1873 the rainfall was deficient beyond precedent; the rainfall registered at Darbhanga in these three years was 79, 42 and 24 inches respectively. The winter rice crop of 1871 had been seriously injured by inundations, and the consequence was that in 1872 the prices of foodgrains were considerably above normal rates, and it was not until the excellent rice harvest of the winter of 1872 that the market recovered its usual tone. The *bhadoi* harvest of 1872, the ensuing rice harvest, and the *rabi* harvest of 1873 were full average crops; and the result was that, although the previous dear year might have pressed on the resources of the people, there was as much grain in the country in the autumn of 1873 as there usually is at that time of the year.

"The rains of 1873 commenced late, were insufficient to bring even the *bhadoi* crops to maturity, or to permit of the usual rice area being sown, and ceased in September with a deficiency under the normal fall varying from 11 inches in Tajpur (Samastipur) to 23 inches in Madhubani and 28 inches in Darbhanga. The inevitable consequence was the failure of the rice crops in every subdivision, culminating in the almost total destruction of the winter rice crop in Darbhanga, where the rainfall from May to November was only 21 inches. The failure of the *bhadoi* crops varied in different portions of the district, the outturn in Madhubani and Tajpur being returned as half and in Darbhanga as five-eighths of an average crop. The failure of the winter rice crops was, however, even more complete than this; for in Tajpur only one-fourth, in Madhubani three-sixteenths, and in Darbhanga one-eighth of an average crop was saved. As regards the *rabi*, the crop was five-eighths or perhaps even

three-fourths of an average crop in the Tajpur subdivision, but in the two northern subdivisions the great drought of 1873 made it impossible to sow the lands.

"The deficiency in the food supply was supplemented partly by private trade, partly by the grain imported by Government; but the combined efforts of both agencies failed to raise the stocks in the district to a level sufficiently high to obviate the prevalence throughout the year of general tightness in the markets, of prices altogether abnormal, and of continuous pressure on all classes. Private import trade reached its highest degree of development in Tajpur, where relief was consequently least required. On the other hand, trade exhibited but a flickering vitality in Darbhanga, and this only in the south of the subdivision about the mart of Rusera; and in Madhubani, it never showed any signs of vitality from first to last. In Madhubani and Darbhanga, therefore, Government was compelled to put forth its full strength in its most organised form, and there were not wanting anxious days in March and April, whenever sanguine men doubted whether the task was not too great for the resources of Government and the devotion of its officers.

"The distribution of charitable relief was commenced in the latter month and closed early in October of the same year, the average daily number gratuitously relieved being 1,24,000 of whom 81,000 were inhabitants of the headquarters subdivision, 38,000 of the Madhubani subdivision and 5,000 of Tajpur. The highest daily number for three subdivisions was 1,34,000 in July in the headquarters subdivision, 71,600 in August in Madhubani, and 7,500 in July in Tajpur. Labourers were relieved by wages in grain and cash from January to September, 1874, the highest numbers reached being 2,20,000 in April in the headquarters subdivision, 3,69,000 in May in Madhubani, and 13,300 in June in Tajpur. In April the total number in receipt of this form of relief was 5,31,500, and in May 5,69,400, but after those months the number rapidly fell, till it was under 22,000 in September. The relief given by Government in various shapes was on a vast scale, and was estimated to be sufficient for the support for one month of 19,54,732 persons in the headquarters subdivision, for 29,25,146 in Madhubani and for 1,38,638 in Tajpur."*

A more vivid picture of the famine of 1874 is available in the letters of H. M. Kisch which have recently been published.† A young civilian Kisch was posted to Madhubani in charge of the famine operations with headquarters at Bhukwa, about 16 miles from Madhubani and 8 miles from frontier of Nepal territory. There was an indigo factory at Bhukwa, the remnants of which

* *District Gazetteer of Darbhanga* (1907), P. 70-72.

†A Young Victorian in India, Edited by Mrs. E. A. Waley Cohen, Jonathan Cape, 1957.

are still there. Bhukwa is situated about two miles north of the Rajnagar railway station and about half a mile north of the Raj palace at Rajnagar.

His jurisdiction covered an area of 198 square miles. He had to visit ten villages every day to inspect the relief works. Since there was practically no good road worthy of mention in those days he had to ride or move on an elephant or walk. It appears that from 19th March, 1874 to 8th April, 1874 or in 19 days he had been to every village in his circle and sometime he had to make over 40 miles riding in day.

Kisch had mentioned that famine was raging severely and the whole of the district of *Tirhut was in distress. All along from Hajipur to Darbhanga he saw an almost unbroken stream of bullock-carts carrying grain to Tirhut.

In Darbhanga District he had visited Pusa, which was then a subdivision of Tirhut, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Bhukwa, Ludania, Jaynagar, Motipur, Jhanjharpur and other famine-stricken areas. Madhubani was under the severe grip of famine and people were dying from starvation and thousands were being fed from the relief centres. Regarding one of the villages of his circle he had mentioned "the condition of some of the people was such that I thought it necessary to have them fed on the spot with cooked food, rather than to trust to their reaching alive the nearest store from which they could obtain rice. It is impossible to describe to you the condition of some of the children in the village to which I refer; after what I saw there, I can hardly conceive of skeleton from an anatomical museum being able to walk."

In Bhukwa circle as relief operations 15 Government grain store houses were started and 22 relief works opened. About 15,000 men and women were employed per day and 3,000 were fed gratuitously. It appears that famine was also raging severely in Nepal and owing to unfenced border of Nepal and India thousands of Nepalese were coming down to take advantage of relief works.

In a letter Kisch mentioned:—

"Nothing else could have saved the people but the pouring in of grain; without this I am thoroughly convinced the whole of the distressed district would have been, for two months, the feeding ground for jackals and vultures, and that after those two

*Tirhut district at that time comprised both Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga districts. (P. C. R. C.).

†Motipur, 8 miles from Rajnagar railway station and 7 miles north of Jhanjharpur and to the east of the western embankment of Balan river had once a flourishing indigo factory the remnants of which are still to be seen (P. C. R. C.).

months a pestilence would have carried off three quarters of the one-tenth of the population that would have remained."

Besides gratuitous relief and feeding arrangement on the spot, relief works were undertaken to give employment to able bodied people in famine-stricken areas. forty tanks, some were about 1,000 feet long and nearly as wide were taken in hand. Of the irrigation works, dams and channels were undertaken and it is reported that the chief dam which was to be of permanent nature was the dam in the Bulan (Balan) river. Each grain store contained from 1,600,000 lbs. to 4,800,000 lbs. of grain, the intrinsic value of which was over 1,000,000 rupees. The private traders were entrusted to sell Government rice at the rate of 27 lbs. or about 13 seers per rupee.

In relief works the labourers, who were hard hit, in some cases were paid only a portion of their wages and the rest was appropriated by the dishonest relief clerks. Two hospitals were constructed in the circle under famine relief works.

The Lieutenant Governor, Sir Richard Temple visited Bhukwa and inspected the relief works in April, 1874. Later the Governor General Lord North Brook paid a flying visit to Darbhanga on the 1st December, 1874 and on the 2nd December he went to Madhubani. By the end of 1874 the relief works appeared to have been suspended as a sufficient rainfall in September brought some relief and people took to cultivation. The letters give us an idea of prices of some commodities in 1874 when famine was raging. A fowl cost 4 annas and a sheep about a rupee. Eggs four for one anna and milk 2 lbs. per anna. These prices had gone up to that level because of the famine. Vegetables and fish were not very plentiful due to failure of rains. The food of four horses cost only 27 rupees per month. The pay of the two syces was 12 rupees, and 4 grass-cutters 16 rupees per month.

While doing famine relief work Kisch made some observations which are worth reproducing. The Brahmins, the highest caste were averse to manual work and informed him that the only work they could perform was to do "prayer". So powerfully the doctrine of caste operated in Brahmins "that he would without a murmur die sooner than work on a tank or road with common coolies". The *purda* was strictly observed in women and none of the officers had seen the women of the high caste even when they were in distress. The women were given cotton through their male relatives to spin thread and got wages on return of the thread.*

*Madhubani has always had a flourishing cottage industry of spinning and weaving (P.C. R C.).

Incidentaly he had mentioned that in the majority of the villages there was not a soul who could read or write and there was not a single school in Bhukwa circle. The roads all along from Hajipur to Darbhanga and from there to Madhubani were dusty. The post office was at Madhubani and letters go from there by post runner to Darbhanga and then to Barh near Patna by new State Railway and from there to Allahabad and Bombay.

Scarcity of 1876*

"Two years afterwards the district had to contend against scarcity owing to the failure of the winter rice crop. This caused some suffering in the north-eastern portion of the district, and the administration of relief had to be commenced in February, 1876. Employment was offered, to a small extent, on relief works such as tanks and roads; but the relief was chiefly in the shape of village charity to the weak and sickly, and the expenditure only amounted to Rs. 30,000.

Scarcity of 1889

"Two periods of scarcity then intervened before the great famine of 1897. In 1889 there was some distress in a strip of country along the Nepal frontier which includes the Khajauli thana. In this area the rainfall was much lighter than elsewhere and ceased prematurely, with the result that the winter rice crop, which is the mainstay of the people, was entirely lost, while the *bhadoi* also failed in places, and the *rabi* was sown under unfavourable circumstances. Relief operations were commenced in January 1889, the people being employed on the excavation of tanks and also on the construction of the railway line from Darbhanga to Sitamarhi. The number on relief works gradually rose until the first fortnight of June, when it aggregated 14,656; but after that, abundant rain having fallen, many were induced to return to their ordinary occupations. It rose again to 19,570 at the end of August, but then declined steadily, and the relief works were finally closed in the first week of October. The total expenditure on these works was 2¼ lakhs, of which half was borne by the District Board and half by Government.

Scarcity of 1892

"There was again scarcity in 1892, the great deficiency of the rains of 1891 causing a total failure of the winter rice crop on the high lands and serious injury to the *bhadoi* crops; the outturn of the latter was estimated at not more than 37½ per cent, and that of winter rice was about the same. The affected tracts were the Rusera and Bahera thanas, and small portion of the Darbhanga

District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907), pp. 72—78.

thanā, to the east of Darbhanga town, in the head-quarters subdivision; and the Benipati and Khajauli thanas, the northern half of the Madhubani thana, and parts of the Phulparas thana in the Madhubani subdivision. Relief operations were begun in March, and were continued for 19 weeks, the average daily attendance being 19,200. Altogether 67 tanks were dug at a cost of Rs. 94,000, and 994 miles of road were taken in hand, of which 582 miles were completed at a cost of one lakh. The highest daily number of persons relieved (47,450) was reached in the middle of June, but the daily wage was then reduced, and the rain which fell at this time enabled the people to return to their ordinary occupations. This led to a speedy and steady decrease in the number of labourers, which continued until the works were closed at the end of July.

Famine of 1897

"The last great famine from which Darbhanga has suffered is that of 1897. The course of events in 1896 strikingly illustrated the principle that the seasonable distribution of the rainfall is of even more importance, within certain limits, than its actual quantity. There was virtually no rain in the cold weather of 1895-96, and as the September rain was not very heavy, while the rainfall in October was practically nil, the water level had sunk very low by May 1896, when there was fairly heavy rain: In May, however, as throughout the season, the rain fell in a few heavy showers which quickly dried up. There was again good rain in the end of June and beginning of July, but then commenced the first long break of about 6 weeks: hardly any rain fell during this period, while there were many cloudless days of burning sunshine. Thus the rain which fell in August found the ground very dry, and the water level little, if at all, higher than in June. Towards the close of August there were a few days of fairly heavy rain, and then another long break, with fine hot days and occasional west winds, till after the middle of September. This rain again fell on a dry and parched up soil, and in most cases it almost disappeared in a few days.

"The monsoon rainfall was below the average, but it was not so much the small quantity of the rainfall as its bad distribution and the hot sunny intervals that had so disastrous an effect on the crop. Up to the end of July the deficiency was only 1¼ inch, but then the district suffered from two long periods of drought in August and September, and much damage was thus caused to the rice. In August the rainfall was nearly up to the average, but in September it was 3 inches short, and no rain fell after the middle of that month. The net result was a deficiency of 17 per cent up to the end of October. The actual deficiency of rainfall was not so great as in some other districts, but it was so peculiarly ill-distributed during the critical months of August, September and

October, that the rice on which the district so much depends was a very great failure. The short rain in September and October had a bad effect on the *rabi* crops, but fortunately good showers fell in the cold weather and the *rabi* which did come up was very good in the south, fair in Darbhanga and moderately good in Madhubani. The *bhadoi* and winter rice, however, were very seriously affected by the short rainfall, not only as regards the outturn, but also as regards the extent of land under cultivation. The result was that though the *rabi*, owing to the winter rains, was as high as 15 annas, the *bhadoi* turned out a 10 anna crop, and the *aghani* was only 5 annas. But as the rice in an ordinary year supplies over more than half of the harvests of the district, it will be obvious that the loss of more than two-thirds of it meant great distress for the people, especially as the rice tracts lie close together, chiefly in one-half of the district, i.e., the northern portion.

"Commencing from the south where the Samastipur subdivision lies, we find along the Ganges and south of the railway line as far as Samastipur, and thence along the Burhi Gandak river, a tract very similar to the southern part of the adjoining subdivision of Hajipur, possessing a soil of great natural fertility, cultivated by expert and industrious husbandmen, and receiving in this year of drought nearly its normal rainfall: this tract, comprising the Dalsingh Sarai and Samastipur thanas, was always treated as safe, and required no relief except in a few places. North of this fortunate tract a zone of slightly distressed country stretched across the district, being bounded on the north by the Baghmati river. North of this stream the whole district was severely affected from the first, except isolated tracts which were exceptionally favoured; of these the most important were a tract to the west of the Tiljuga river in the south of thana Phulparas, a tract further north to the east of the same thana, a strip along the Kamla river from the northern boundary of the district down to Singia, and a similar strip along the Karai river from Bahera down to Hirni. In all these localities, except the last, which is a *rabi* country, the prosperity of the tract was due to irrigation from the rivers; other small isolated areas owed their partial immunity to better local rainfall or to their containing high land and *rabi* crops.

"No fears of famine were aroused until the break of the rains became very prolonged in August, when the *bhadoi* began to wither, the seed-beds of rice were drying up, and large tracts of rice land remained unplanted. By the end of September it became clear that nothing but good rain in the *Hathia* asterism at the close of that month and the beginning of October could save the rice. These hopes proved delusive; the *Hathia* passed away without a drop of rain, and the rice was doomed. A test relief work was accordingly opened at Phulparas at the end of October,

but this did not attract labourers and was very soon closed. About the middle of November there were signs that distress was beginning to appear among the poorer classes in the Madhubani subdivision; and test works were opened at Kamtaul and Jaynagar, and the old test works at Phulparas were reopened. The number of labourers was however very small during this month, as the harvesting of the winter rice gave employment on much more remunerative terms than Government offered; and large number of labourers went into the Nepal *Tarai* and the north of Bhagalpur, where the rice crop was very good. By the end of November the signs of distress among the poorest classes had decidedly increased, and by the middle of December 5 works had been opened and the average attendance had risen to 713. From this period there was a very rapid increase, the number of works rising to 83 by the end of January 1897 and reaching the maximum of 199 by the 19th June. They then steadily decreased and had all been closed by the 25th September.

"The number of labourers increased to 113,880 by the end of January and was 124,514 on the 24th April. It then fluctuated according as showers fell or not, reaching the maximum in the last week of May, when it rose to 145,116 or 6 per cent of the population affected. In the 1st week of July there were 112,316 labourers, but after that the number fell week by week to 3,616 during the week ending the 11th September and to 250 during the week ending 25th September, when the works were finally closed. The distribution of gratuitous relief was commenced towards the close of November 1896, and at the end of December the average daily number relieved was 1,447. By this time the organization of circles began to take effect, and the numbers of those relieved by Government increased rapidly and without a break till the first week in March, when they had risen to 59,097. In the meantime, the Darbhanga Raj had also commenced the distribution of gratuitous relief to its *ryots*, and the total number of those in receipt of this form of relief reached its maximum of 124,410 on 21st June. It was still nearly 100,000 in the beginning of August, but after that it fell rapidly, and all gratuitous relief was stopped during the week ending the 25th September. The expenditure on this form of relief came to Rs. 4,10,819, some 25,000 persons on the average being relieved daily for 4 months, besides 86,690 persons who received gifts of money, grain or clothes once for all.

"The total famine expenditure from public funds was Rs. 36,77,307, and the daily average number relieved was about 1,700,000 or a little over 6 per cent. of the population. There was a very little private relief given, except by the Maharaja of Darbhanga, who spent Rs. 2,45,500 on relief works and Rs. 1,22,800 on gratuitous relief: the aggregate number of those employed on these relief works from first to last, reckoned in terms of one day, was 2,834,848, and of those gratuitously relieved 2,943,702.

The highest number of persons relieved on any one day during the famine was 253,910 or 10.49 per cent. of the population affected; and the total number of persons relieved, in terms of one day, was 40,911,000, a total larger than in any other Bengal district.

"The death-rate was unusually low during the greater part of the distress. The only months in which the average of the preceding 5 years was exceeded were March, August and September, in the last two of which there was a great deal of fever: the excess was however largest in thanas outside the area of greatest distress, so that the rise in the death-rate can scarcely be attributable to famine. The recovery of the people was rapid, and the end of 1897-98 saw them almost restored to their normal condition.

Scarcity of 1906.

"In 1906 Darbhanga again suffered from scarcity, amounting in some tracts to famine, owing to the disastrous floods which swept the district. These floods and the acute distress they caused have already been described, and it will suffice to point out that the scarcity is entirely different from that which has visited Darbhanga hitherto it being not too scanty but to excessive rainfall.

Liability to famine.

"Regarding the liability of the district to famine, the following remarks of the Settlement Officer, Mr. J. H. Kerr, I. C. S., may be quoted:—"It will be generally conceded that all famines in North Bihar, which have been serious enough to require Government relief on a large scale, have been due to the failure of the winter rice crop. There is, it is believed, no instance in which Government has had to undertake relief, save in limited local areas, owing to a failure of the crops of the *bhadoi* or *rabi* harvests, though, in the event of a failure of the winter rice crop, conditions are of course relieved or aggravated according to the nature of the preceding *bhadoi* and the subsequent *rabi* harvest. Thus it is only to be expected that Darbhanga, which has a larger gross area and a larger proportion of its cropped area under winter rice than any other district in North Bihar, should suffer most severely in the case of famine, and as a matter of fact, eight out of the ten thanas in the district, of more than four-fifths of its total area, have been officially declared liable to severe distress in the event of a failure of the winter rice crop. The statistics of the last great famine of 1897 further emphasise the importance of the winter rice crop in Darbhanga. The three districts of Saran, Darbhanga, and Muzaffarpur are practically on an equality, so far as the pressure of population on the soil and the small area available for extension of cultivation are concerned. But the crop failure of 1896 affected them in different degrees of intensity. Though Saran has the greatest density of population to the square mile and the highest rent rate, it suffered least severely from famine, owing to the variety of its crops and the practical independence of many parts of it of the winter rice

harvest. In Darbhanga, on the other hand, where in two subdivisions winter rice covers over three-fifths of the net cropped area, more than a tenth of the population affected by its failure had to turn to Government for relief during the famine of 1897. There could be no more striking corroboration of the conclusion of the Famine Commission, that the devastating famines to which the provinces of India have from time to time been liable are in all cases to be traced directly to the occurrence of seasons of unusual drought, the failure of the customary rainfall leading to the failure of the food-crops on which the population depends.' And it might be added that in Bihar, famine, as distinct from local scarcity is always due to the failure of the winter rice crop, and varies in its effects upon a given area with the importance of the crops other than the winter rice, on which the cultivators can fall back."

"As a matter of fact, the cultivators of Darbhanga can and do weather more than one season of crop failure without turning to Government for relief. It is a common proverb that it takes three bad years to make a famine. Even in the great famine of 1897, which followed two seasons of bad harvests and was accompanied by a higher range of prices than had been known since the previous famine of 1873-74, the proportion of pure cultivators who had to seek relief at the hands of Government must have been very small. For the total number relieved, when the distress was at its height was only 10 per cent. of the total population affected, or little more than half of those who are classed in the census returns as labourers, and who have either no land at all, or whose holdings are too small to support them from the profits of cultivation in an ordinary year, so that they have to eke out their income by working for others. It speaks well for the staying powers of the district, that a large minority even of the labouring class were able to dispense with Government relief during the last famine."

Later Famine, Scarcity and Relief Measures.

Of the later famines and scarcities we get sporadic reference in the Land Revenue Administration Reports. As has been stated elsewhere the district suffers more from visitation of floods than to drought. After 1906 there was again scarcity condition in 1908. It was mainly owing to absence of rain during October (*Hathia*) and cold-weather which caused destruction to *bhadai*, *aghani* and *rabi* crops. The intensity of scarcity was felt particularly in Singia and Rusera thanas although scarcity conditions prevailed in Sadar and Madhubani subdivisions also. The *bhadai*, *aghani* and *rabi* crops failed in 1912 due to heavy downpour in July and August and complete failure of *Hathia* rains later. In 1917 and 1918 scarcity condition prevailed due to deficient and uneven rainfall. In 1918 there was deficient rainfall in July and an entire cessation of rain from middle of September to January, 1919 caused drought

in the district. The whole district was affected by this drought. In 1932 the Madhubani subdivision got an uneven distribution of rainfall and the paddy crops suffered. There was also failure of rains in 1935 and 1939. In 1944 paddy crop suffered to some extent for want of timely rainfall.

Scarcity of 1950-51.

In 1950-51 scarcity condition prevailed due to widespread damage by floods in the Kosi and non-Kosi belt in the earlier and the total failure of *Hathia* rains in the latter part of the year. Consequently both *bhadai* and *aghani* crops failed to a great extent in the Madhubani and Sadar subdivisions. There was also damage of crops in the Samastipur subdivision in the Kosi belt areas.

Relief measures were taken to alleviate the sufferings of the people. A sum of Rs. 2,25,000 was spent on gratuitous relief in the Kosi belt areas. In the months of July, August and September, 1950 about 10,359 persons—2,959 in Sadar, 3,750 in Samastipur and 3,650 in Madhubani subdivisions were served under the scheme gratuitous relief distributed regularly on the basis of printed relief cards. An amount of Rs. 2,827 was also spent under gratuitous relief in the non-Kosi belt. About 53,041 maunds of foodgrains were distributed in the Kosi belt and 17,390 maunds in the non Kosi belt through fair price shops. In the Kosi affected areas 750 tins of kerosene oil in Sadar, 1,000 tins in Samastipur and 950 tins in Madhubani subdivisions were distributed as against 332 tins in the non-Kosi belt areas. 242 maunds of sugar were also distributed.

Scarcity of 1951-52

The intensity of drought in 1951-52 was gravely felt throughout the State and the district of Darbhanga was also no exception. Drought condition prevailed due to deficient and uneven rainfall and complete failure of *Hathia* rains. About 75 per cent of autumn and winter paddy and *rabi* crops had failed. Scarcity condition was felt throught the whole district except Samastipur, Tajpur and Dalsingsarai police stations in Samastipur subdivision. Relief measures were taken to meet the scourge of scarcity. A sum of Rs. 13,70,448 was spent on gratuitous relief, Rs. 21 15,791 on hard manual schemes and Rs. 6,00,000 on light manual schemes.

Scarcity of 1952-53.

The agricultural condition of the district during 1952-53 was somewhat better in comparison to the previous year. However, a few pockets were affected owing to scarcity partly caused by drought and partly by excessive rains and floods. Out of the total areas of 21,12,928 acres of the district about 6,67,918 acres with a population of about 9,80,022 (or 25 per cent of total population) was considered to be the scarcity area.

The relief measures taken were to relieve the agricultural distress of the district. 27 District Board and Local Board roads

were taken for repairs at a cost of Rs. 92,865 over a length of 79 miles, 25,362 maunds of foodgrains were distributed on gratuitous relief. Agricultural loans on a liberal scale were advanced to cultivators.

Scarcity of 1957

Scarcity condition again prevailed in 1957 due to failure of crops by floods which visited the district in July and August and subsequent complete failure of *Hathia* rains. Severe drought condition prevailed throughout the whole district. About 75 per cent of crops failed due to combined vagary of floods and famines. Fair price shops were opened to supply foodgrains on fixed price. Tanks and *chaurs* were renovated and tube-wells were sunk to meet the situation. A sum of Rs. 3,21,059 was spent on gratuitous relief, Rs. 9,84,905 on hard manual schemes and Rs. 72,000 on light manual schemes.

Scarcity of 1958-59.

The impact of scarcity of the previous year continued till the harvesting of paddy in 1958-59. Relief measures consisting of the hard manual and light manual labour schemes were taken to employ the able bodied people, 1,720 hard manual labour schemes were put under execution to provide employment to 18,46,397 labourers at the total cost of Rs. 20,85,289 and on light manual schemes Rs. 12,26,413 were spent. A sum of Rs. 46,17,250 was spent on gratuitous relief. Agricultural and land improvement loans to the tune of Rs. 24,04,315 and Rs. 32,760 respectively were advanced to the cultivators. Besides a sum of Rs. 86,240 was advanced as natural calamities loans.

Scarcity of 1959-60.

In 1959-60 the *bhadai* crops were widely damaged in Madhubani and Sadar subdivisions owing to deficient and uneven rainfall in July and August, 1960. The total failure of *Hathia* rains in September October damaged *aghani* and *rabi* crops and consequently scarcity condition prevailed in Sadar and Madhubani subdivisions. Samastipur subdivision was, however, better although a portion of the subdivision near Kusheswarasthan was affected by the Kosi flood. The drought and flood affected the total area of 1,696 square miles with a population of 19,58,563 or about half of the district was affected adversely during 1959-60.

Relief measures were taken to relieve the sufferings of the people. 576 hard manual labour schemes were taken on which Rs. 5,89.554 were spent to give employment to 478,909 labourers. A huge quantity of foodgrains to the tune of 737,668 maunds were sold through 1,090 fair price shops. A sum of Rs. 21,64,345 was spent on gratuitous relief besides 20,291 maunds of grains of the value of Rs. 340,739. Agricultural and land improvement loans of the

amount of Rs. 2,85,400 and Rs. 400 were advanced to the cultivators. Natural calamities loan to the tune of Rs. 15,460 was also distributed.

From the summary given above it will be obvious that portion of Sadar and Madhubani subdivisions suffer from a sort of chronic flood or drought and relief measures have almost become a routine feature. The bulk of Samastipur is better off although Singia and Rusera areas have occasionally suffered from flood and drought.

A study of the agricultural conditions of Darbhanga district would rather indicate that there is not much scope for the extension of agriculture although there is abundant scope for intensification of cultivation on improved methods. There has been a cumulative rate of growth of agricultural production in the recent years but there is still scope for further growth if better methods are adopted. The productivity of agriculture has to be raised through more intensive farming for which co-operative farming may be tried. The planner for better agriculture in the district has to take agriculture in the background of a general programme for rural development, and has to work out the bearings with reference to rural self-Government, Community Development, the Bhoodan movement, etc. The multiplication of rural industries should also be tried as one solution of the problem of spare-time employment in rural areas. Agriculture is already over-saturated so far as the number of dependants on agriculture is concerned and that pressure has got to be reduced.

Co-operative farming has not yet been given any proper trial in Darbhanga district. The types of societies which are generally enlisted as co-operative farming societies are:—better farming society, joint farming society, collective farming society, tenant farming society and composite society. A *Sarvodaya Sahyog* society is not any functional co-operative society by itself. It is an agency for the execution of all-round social and economic reforms in the village on the basis of equalitarian principles. One of its chief aims is to secure dedication of private lands particularly from the richer land owners to the common cause of the village which would result primarily in removing the handicaps of the landless agricultural workers or the poor peasantry with small holdings.

There is no joint co-operative farming society in Darbhanga district. There are three *Sarvodaya Sahyog* societies in this district. They are still in their infancy and their impact on the organisation of collective farming is still to be made. There are such societies elsewhere in Bihar which are better run. Co-operative farming on proper lines is expected to yield better agricultural conditions in this district.

One of the most remarkable features of the earthquake of the 15th January 1934 in North Bihar was the formation of over many hundreds of square miles of craters and fissures in the ground through which sand and water were thrown up. As a consequence considerable areas of fertile land were buried under deposits of sand varying in depth from a few inches to over two feet. A special survey of lands damaged by the earthquake in North Bihar was taken up and the Final Report of Shri N. L. Bhattacharji, Special Officer, mentions the names of the villages in Darbhanga district which were found affected. The survey was to indicate whether (*a*) there is some sand but less than 6 inches, (*b*) more than 6 inches but not more than one foot, and (*c*) more than one foot. Peculiarly enough in the beginning of the survey the tenants took no interest and the offers of loans on joint responsibility held out by Government were coolly received by the tenants and interested people who had money-lending business on high interest began to advise the tenants not to take loans on joint responsibility so that after Government closed offers of loans, they could grant loans on high interest. A counter propaganda was therefore carried on by the official and non-official agencies which bore good results and towards the close of the operation, the tenants began to take interest in the survey. Not much damage was found to the south of the Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga road and south of the railway line from Darbhanga to Sakri and that there was practically no damage to the east of Sakri-Jaynagar railway line. Accordingly the area south of the Muzaffarpur-Darbhanga road and Darbhanga-Sakri railway line and west of the Sakri-Jaynagar railway line was excluded, but subsequently at the request of the Collector of Darbhanga a number of villages of Darbhanga and Warisnagar police station was taken up.

The list of villages with considerable deposit of sand over one foot in Darbhanga district included as Appendix C to the Final Report of Shri N. L. Bhattacharji, include the following :—

Thana Darbhanga—Musihama, Rampurdih, Arai, Mani, Misrauli, Ahiari, Kothia, Kataia, Bhagawatipur, Kamgaon, Asraha, Keoti-Ranway, Singhwara, Siso, Paigambarpur, Ramaul, Jethiahi, Hariharpur, Kamtaul, Darhia, Massa, Rarhi, Dighra, Reorha, Jogiara ;

Thana Madhubani—Mahinathpur, Biraue, Rampatti, Kaithahi Nawhath, Koilakh, Bharia, Bishunpur, Pariharpur, Karahia, Basauli;

Thana Khajauli—Maheshwara, Ghonghaur, Madhaipur, Harpur, Karmauli, Dokhar, Marhia, Bhaiapatti, Kalikapur, Siriapur, Basopatti, Palimohan, Barhi ;

Thana Benipatti—Pahra, Tisi Narsam, Jagban Dumra, Ladaut, Nagdah Balain, Karhi, Andhri, Ranipur, Baingra, Marhia, Sadullahpur, Parsauni, Nurchack, Bardaha, Gorhaul, Ganguli, Meghban, Ahpur, Balia, Khairibanka, Bisfi, Pali, Singia, Rathos, Damodarpur, Raghauli, Pirokhar, Bishunpur, Barri.

CHAPTER V

INDUSTRIES.

OLD TIME INDUSTRIES.

Among the old time industries in Darbhanga district that have declined, mention has to be made particularly of indigo and saltpetre industries. Indigo industry was so important to the economy of the district that L. S. S. O'Malley gave a chapter to indigo industry in the last *District Gazetteer of Darbhanga* (1907). This text has been quoted as an appendix as it is important to know what the industry was to the district and the country at large at one time as the old *District Gazetteer of Darbhanga* is not easily available now.

When the last District Gazetteer was compiled, the decline of saltpetre had already set in. O'Malley mentions :—

> "In Bihar, which is the chief source of saltpetre in India, the conditions for the natural production of the compound closely approach the theoretical ideal. With a population exceeding 500 per square mile, where agriculture is the chief occupation, and where there is consequently a high proportion of domestic animals, the soils round the villages have an abundant supply of organic nitrogen. The climatic conditions of temperature and humidity are also unusually favourable for the growth of so-called nitrifying bacteria, which convert ammonia by successive stages into nitrous and nitric acid. Wood and cow-dung are largely used for fuel, and the immediate vicinity of each village thus forms a perfect laboratory for the formation of potassium nitrate. In the long period of continuous surface desiccation which follows a small monsoon rainfall, the compounds so formed in the soil are brought to the surface by capillary action, and appear as a white efflorescence of dried salts which is collected and purified for export as saltpetre."

"Before the discovery of large deposits of sodium nitrate in Chili, India had almost a monopoly of the supply of natural saltpetre upon which Europe largely depended for the manufacture of gunpowder ; and the greater part of this supply came from Bihar. The production of saltpetre was of especial importance during the long wars with France, and the great fluctuations in its price gave rise to heavy speculations during periods of international complications. A system which provided for the control of manufacture and sale of salt by the agency of the Company's servants was accordingly introduced by Clive and Warren Hastings in 1765-80 ; and the production of saltpetre in Tirhut long continued to be supervised by Europeans. As late as 1847 there were four factories

under European supervision in Tirhut; but the fall of prices caused the Europeans who were engaged in the trade to withdraw their capital, and the manufacture is now entirely in the hands of natives. Of late years a series of bad seasons, combined with low price in Calcutta, has had an injurious effect on the manufacture, and many refineries have been closed. The outturn of saltpetre has accordingly fallen gradually from 64,700 maunds in 1895-96 to 38,000 maunds in 1904-1905; though the outturn of salt deduced during the process of manufacture has remaind fairly constant, and has risen from 2,760 to 2,910 maunds.

"The manufacture is in the hands of a poor and hardy caste called Nunias, and is founded on a system of advances made to them by middlemen, who again contract with the larger houses of business in Calcutta. It is controlled by the Northern India Salt Department, which grants licenses for refining salt, for making saltpetre and for the manufacture of the unrefined saltpetre called *khari*. The process of manufacture is simple, and the implements employed are very primitive. Manufacture is carried on in small factories, situated at towns and villages scattered over the country. Nitrous soil is collected from the vicinity of habitations and is lixiviated in earthen filters, after which the nitrous brine is concentrated in small iron or earthen vessels with the aid of artificial heat, and saltpetre is obtained by crystallization as the temperature of the concentrated liquid falls. The saltpetre so obtained is impure in quality, as it contains earthy matter and foreign salts (such as chloride of sodium) in mechanical admixture. This impure saltpetre is collected in refineries situated at different points among the village works and after being purified in them to a fair degree of refraction, is sent to Calcutta, where some of it is purfied to a higher degree of refraction, and some is exported to the United Kingdom, the United States, China and other countries."

Saltpetre industry survived till the close of the first World War of 1918-19. The easy availability of rock salt, persian salt and sea salt led to the decline of the manufacture of saltpetre which was rather costly. The *Nunias*, the poor and hardy caste that was more or less exclusively engaged in saltpetre industry were in the hands of the middlemen who again contracted with the larger houses of businessmen in Calcutta and there were various handicaps because of the restrictions imposed by the North India Salt Department which granted licenses. The *Nunias* turned to other occupations.

Another old time industry which still continues in another manner is the manufacture of sugar. In O' Malley's time sugar industry was more or less confined to Madhubani subdivision. There were 32 refineries at work during 1895-96 with an outturn of 43,000 maunds valued at Rs. 4,30,000. During 1904-05 two factories had closed down and the outturn from the 30 factories was 41,400 maunds

valued at Rs. 2,71,250. Sugar industry has not only survived but has become one of the most important industries in the district and consumes the large outturn of sugarcane within the district and also draws supplies from beyond the district.

The manufacture of cotton fabrics of various types which O' Malley had noticed is still continuing and this old time industry has received a very great encouragement in the recent years and quite a good quantity of Darbhanga handloom fabrics goes out of the country. Similarly some other old time cottage industries such as the manufacture of pottery, mats, baskets, brass utensils, blanket-weaving, making of shoes and lac bangles have received encouragement in the hands of the Government and the public in the recent years.

POWER.

The old time industries were run by manual labour. They were cottage industries. Later, steam and diesel engines were introduced by the European indigo planters. After the end of the last world war, a large number of power equipments belonging to the military were available in the market and private enterprises started supply of electricity to several towns in Bihar. Supply of power by the State is the latest phase. Laheriasarai-Darbhanga, Sakri, Jaynagar, Madhubani, Samastipur, Pusa have got supply of electric power. Several industrial units are still running their factory with their old oil engines but with inadequate supply of power. Some of the larger industrial units have their own power houses. With the starting of the thermal power station at Barauni, and the completion of the Kosi Project, more supply of power will be available. Darbhanga has very little of industrialisation so far and this is due to the lack of the availability of power.

ELECTRICITY.

The North Bihar Electric Supply Company, Samastipur started in 1940 by a private manangement gave an irregular and limited supply. This Power House was taken over by the State Government in 1953, i.e., towards the beginning of the First Five-Year Plan. Government took up the task of supply of power to Samastipur town and the neighbourhood. The actual construction work was started in 1954. A diesel power station of 1250 K.W. (derated) capacity with an additional supply of 600 K.W. from Damodar Valley Corporation has been constructed at Samastipur and electric supply to Samastipur town by the State Government was started since July, 1954. Subsequently other places like Hasanpur, Rusera, Dalsingsarai were given supply of power from Samastipur Power House. Side by side some villages were also electrified. The rural electrification scheme is on an expansion. Samastipur Power House also supplies electric power to Pusa Electric Subdivision.

Prior to this, there was a small diesel power house at Pusa Road, which has now been closed down. Energy to the above mentioned places is transmitted at 11 K.V. and distributed at 400/200 volts through distributing sub-stations.

During the same period a diesel pilot generating station of 876 K. W. having one set 150 K.W., one set 245 K.W., one set 256 K.W. and one set 75 K.W., was established at Sakri in the month of February, 1954. It feeds the private power house of the Laheriasarai-Darbhanga Electric Supply Company, Limited at Darbhanga. Sakri, Madhubani, Jaynagar, Jhanjharpur, Nirmali, Nehra, Bahera, Benipatti, etc., and the neighbouring villages are given supply of power.

Laheriasarai-Darbhanga towns have still supply of electricity by a private management known as Laheriasarai-Darbhanga Electric Supply Company, Limited and the rest of the important places are being supplied by the State Electricity Board as mentioned earlier. The district headquarters are also expected to get supply of electricity from State Electricity Board in the near future.

Laheriasarai-Darbhanga Electric Supply Company, Limited, Darbhanga, was established in 1937 with a total capital of Rs. 6,38,140 with an authorised share capital of Rs. 1,50,000 of Rs. 10 each, Issued capital, Rs. 80,000, shares of Rs. 10 each and a subscribed paid up capital of Rs. 8,558 shares of Rs. 10 each. It is managed by a firm known as Bairoliya Brothers who are functioning under the supervision and control of a Board of Directors under the Indian Companies Act, 1956. Till 1954, there was one more electric supply company which used to supply electricity to Darbhanga Raj only but since 1955 Raj Electric Supply Company has been amalgamated with Laheriasarai-Darbhanga Electric Supply Company, Limited. In the beginning when this Company was established it was generating only 500 K.W. But due to the amalgamation of Raj Electric Supply Company, new installation of three more diesel engines, i.e., one in 1955 of 335 K.W., two in 1959 of 200 K.W. each and one more which was installed in the year 1962 of 200 K.W. and the establishment of State Electricity at Sakri, the generating capacity of the said Company has increased to 1215 K.W. through its diesel engines and 270 K.W. by steam engine (previously Raj Power House). Further it purchases power from Sakri Power House 150 K.W. per month since 1959.

All the power houses are diesel stations generating A.C. energy only excepting the D. C. Station, Darbhanga, which is a steam station.

As mentioned the villages are also being electrified but the response of the villages has not been very keen. The Thermal Power Station at Barauni will be able to generate 45,000 K. W.

during its first phase installation and will be a boon to this part of the country. The demand is far beyond what the Damodar Valley Corporation could supply.

The statement below shows the number of industrial consumers and the number of units of electricity being progressively consumed by the various industrial concerns during the years from 1951-52 to 1962-63 (June, 1962) :—

Name of the Power House.	1951-52. No. of Industrial consumers.	1951-52. Units consumed.	1952-53. No. of Industrial consumers.	1952-53. Units consumed.	1953-54. No of Industrial consumers.	1953-54. Units consumed.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Government Power House, Samastipur.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Government Power House, Sakri.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	N.A.	N.A.
	1951		1952		1953	
Laheriasarai-Darbhanga Electric Supply Company, Limited, Darbhanga.	N.A	1,63,697	N.A.	1,68,261	N.A.	1,07,513

Name of the Power House.	1954-55. No. of Industrial consumers.	1954-55. Units consumed.	1955-56. No. of Industrial consumers.	1955-56. Units consumed.	1956-57. No. of Industrial consumers.	1956-57. Units consumed.
1	8	9	10	11	12	13
Government Power House, Samastipur.	5	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Government Power House, Sakri.	N.A.	N.A.	4	N.A.	17	N.A.
Laheriasarai-Darbhanga Electric Supply Company, Limited, Darbhanga.	N.A.	1,06,067	N.A.	1,35,021	N.A.	3,05,063

Name of the Power House.	1957-58.		1958-59.		1959-60.	
	No. of Industrial consumers.	Units consumed.	No. of Industrial consumers.	Units consumed.	No. of Industrial consumers.	Units consumed.
1	14	15	16	17	18	19
Government Power House, Samastipur.	24	N.A.	28	N.A.	43	2,12,719
Government Power House, Sakri.	22	N.A.	37	N.A.	48	N.A.
Laheriasarai-Darbhanga Electric Supply Company, Limited, Darbhanga.	N.A.	4,20,021	N.A.	4,32,524	N.A.	4,51,042

Name of the Power Houses.	1960-61.		1961-62.		1962-63.	
	No. of Industrial consumers.	United consumed.	No. of Industrial consumers.	Units consumed.	No. of Industrial consumers.	Units consumed.
1	20	21	22	23	24	25
Government Power House, Samastipur.	63	8,33,827	74	9,30,904	76	2,42,480
Government Power House, Sakri.	56	N.A.	62	N.A.	62	N.A.
Laheriasarai Darbhanga Electric Supply Company, Limited, Darbhanga.	..	4,73,932	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

N.A.—Not available.

The figures are for the period of September, 1959 to March, 1960.

Mining and Heavy Industries

There are no Mining and Heavy Industries in existence in this district.

Large Scale and Small Scale Industries.

There are 350 registered factories in the district. Fifty of them have been registered under sections 2-m (*i*), 10 under 2-m (*ii*) and the rest under section 85 of the Factories Act, 1948. Factories under 2-m(*i*) employ more than 10 workers. Among the factories under section 2-m(*i*), the Rameshwar Jute Mills, Limited, Muktapur Samastipur Central Sugar Company, Limited, Samastipur, the New India Sugar Mills, Limited, Hasanpur, Sakri Sugar Works, Sakri and Lohat Sugar Works, Lohat (both of the Darbhanga Sugar Co., (Ltd.), Ryam Sugar Company, Limited, Ryam, Khadi Gramodyog Sangh, Pusa, Khadi Gramodyog Sangh, Madhubani, are big factories employing persons ranging from 600 to 2,000 per day. Electric Power Houses at Darbhanga, Sakri and Samastipur are also registered under section 2-m (*i*). Further the two paper mills (under construction), i.e., Ashok Paper Mills, Hayaghat and Thakur Paper Mills, Samastipur, have also been registered under section 2-m(*i*). The N. E. Railway Workshop at Samastipur which alone employs more than 200 workers is also registered under section 2-m(*i*). There are certain factories in which 1,800 workers are also employed. The five sugar factories in the district are seasonal factories. In the sugar factories when the cane crushing season is over the services of a large percentage of workers are terminated but their services are retained for the next cane crushing season for which the workers are paid retaining allowances.

The Rameshwar Jute Mills, Ltd., Muktapur, runs throughout the year in which about 1,800 workers are employed. This factory in the district has employed the largest number of workers.

The North Eastern Railway Workshop at Samastipur is well-equipped and up-to-date and maintains the rolling stock in good conditions.

There are a few other factories registered under section 2-m(*i*) which employ 25 to 150 workers per day.

About 290 are small factories employing between 2 to 6 workers per day under section 85. Such factories are rice mills, oil mills, flour mills or *Atta Chakki*, engineering workshops and other types of factories of miscellaneous goods. Out of such types of factories the largest number of them are flour mills or *Atta Chakki*, rice mills and oil mills scattered throughout the district.

Sugar cane is one of the prominent crops of the district and as such there are five sugar mills located in the district.

The importance of rice, oil and flour mills comes next to the sugar mills. There are at least 20 rice and oil mills in the district. Though it is not a surplus paddy district yet these rice mills exist because of the supply of paddy from Nepal and from the local produce. The area served by the Railway from Darbhanga to Narkatiaganj *via* Raxaul is a rice-bowl tract. Rice Mills dependent upon the supply of paddy from Nepal are in a state of crisis as the Government of Nepal have occasionally been restricting the movement of paddy outside.

Large Scale Industries

Jute Mill.

The Rameshwar Jute Mills Company, Limited situated at Muktapur is the only jute mill in the district. Established in 1926 it was converted into a limited concern in 1935. The site was favourable from the point of view of supply of raw materials and transport. Prior to the partition of the country in 1947, it used to get supply of raw materials from Bengal but now almost the entire requirements of the factory are met by the jute grown in Bihar. Forbesganj and Gulabbagh in Purnea district are the main sources of supply of jute. Besides the company purchases jute from Jhanjharpur and Nirmali within the district.

The authorised capital of the mill is Rs. 50,00,000. 00 nP. only, divided into Rs. 20,00,000.00 nP. only preference shares and Rs. 30,00,000.00 nP. only, ordinary shares against which the paid-up capital is Rs. 27,00,000.00 nP. only with Rs. 7,00,000.00 nP. only preference and Rs. 20,00,000.00 nP. only ordinary shares.

This mill employs about 1,800 workers per day. They are paid weekly and the payment is governed by the Third Bengal Award for Jute Industry. The Managing Agents are Messers. Hindusthan Investment Corporation, Limited, since 1st of December 1954.

The company has undertaken to modernise its machinery and the latest type of silver frames and allied machinery are under erection (1962). After modernisation of the machinery it is expected that the production will considerably increase to about 800 to 900 tons per month.

Like all other jute mills much of the efficiency depends on the practical experience of the workers and the skill in mixing various qualities of jute to get best of yarn at a cheap and competitive price. It manufactures jute twine, gunny bags and hessian. The company sells bulk of its production to various central factories of M/s. Associated Cement Company, local sugar mills, etc. Some portion of production is also sold at Kanpur market.

Sugar Mills

Sugarcane is grown extensively in the district. There are five sugar factories, *viz*., Samastipur Central Sugar Company, Limited, Samastipur, New India Sugar Mills, Limited, Hasanpur, Ryam Sugar Company, Limited, Ryam, Sakri Sugar Works, Sakri and Lohat Sugar Works, Lohat. But in some portions of the district including Samastipur growers are reluctant to grow their sugarcane on high land areas and grow sugarcane on low lying land or comparatively less fertile lands. Crops on such lands give a poor recovery of sugar. Although the ideas of scientific methods of sugarcane cultivation have been propagated by the State Government and the factory, there has not been a good response. The main reason of it is the construction of the embankment on Burhi Gandak and thereby the growers are more attracted towards the cultivation of chilli and tobacco which are cash crops and have a ready market.

Sugar industry was older to indigo industry in this district but was carried out under indigenous processes. When there was a great demand for indigo abroad, sugarcane declined and indigo was cultivated widely and a large number of indigo planters made a good business of indigo cultivation and manufacture. Synthetic dye and other circumstances affected indigo industry and by the second decade of this century indigo practically died out and sugarcane cultivation came in as a substitute and led to the starting of sugar factories. Ryam and Lohat sugar factories were set up in 1914-1915. Samastipur Central Sugar Company, Limited was registered in the year 1918 and started functioning from 1920.

In the thirties there was a tremendous fall in price of grain and other crops. The sugar industry of the country received beneficial tariff protection with the passing of the Sugar Industries Protection Act, 1932, for a period of fourteen years. This gave a further impetus to this industry and, as a result two more factories were established, i.e., Sakri Sugar Works (1933) at Sakri and the New India Sugar Mills, Limited (1934-35) at Hasanpur.

An important development in the field of sugar industry was the legislation of 1937, known as the Bihar Sugar Factories Control Act. According to this Act, some area round each factory was earmarked and reserved for the cultivation of sugarcane which the factory concerned was bound to purchase. There was no such restriction for the free zones. Some factories also own personal lands or lands leased out to them on which they themselves grow cane. The sugar factories usually give advances of money to large sugarcane cultivators.

The Bihar Sugar Factories Central Act, 1937, gave an impetus to the formation of the Canegrowers' Co-operative Societies. At the

outset, these societies were organised by the growers themselves but now they are actively helped by the State Government and are registered under the Co-operative Societies Act. The internal management of these societies is entrusted to a Committee of Management consisting of educated members and the supervision and audit is done by the auditors appointed by the Government. The Canegrowers' Co-operative Societies, operating in the area of each sugar factory, are affiliated to Central Co-operative Development and Cane Marketing Union which enters into contract with the factory and regulates supply of cane on behalf of the societies. There is also a Provincial Co-operative Association and a Provincial Co-operative Federation to which all these societies and the Central Unions are affiliated. In 1961-62, there were 423 Canegrowers' Co-operative Societies with 18,992 members in the Laheriasarai Circle, 350 Canegrowers' Co-operative Societies with 12,460 members in the Samastipur Circle and 568 Canegrowers' Co-operative Societies with 22,176 members in the Madhubani Circle and the number of Cane Marketing Unions were 4 in the Laheriasarai Circle, 3 in the Samastipur Circle, 3 in the Madhubani Circle with 18,922, 12,460 and 22,176 membership respectively in all the circles.

So far the financial aspect of these societies are concerned, they have their share capital but they also get some commission on the cane-supply through them. Besides they also got loans from the Co-operative Banks.

There is no census, but approximately there are 40,000 of canegrower families in the district. The sugar factories also provide credit facilities especially in connection with cane-cultivation and purchase of bullocks and bullock-carts, etc., both in cash and kind every year. The amount so advanced is generally realised during the following crushing season (November to May) out of cane price payable to them.

Further, each factory employs from 800 to 2,000 workers and pays them wages as fixed by the Sugar Wage Board. Prior to the Wage Board's recommendations the wages used to vary from factory to factory. The wage structure has now improved alon with service conditions which has been discussed elsewhere.

There have been a number of legislations to safeguard the interests of the canegrowers and the State Government have been anxious to see that the growers and the factory management mutually help each other and have good relationship. The price of sugarcane is fixed by the State Government in consultation with the neighbouring Uttar Pradesh Government usually.

Darbhanga Sugar Co., Ltd., Lohat.

The Company was established in 1914 with their Head Office at Calcutta. In the beginning it had only one factory, i.e., Lohat

Sugar Works, Lohat, which was given start in the year 1915 and its Managing Agents were Octavius Steel Co., Ltd., Calcutta. A second factory was set up at Sakri under the caption Sakri Sugar Works in 1933 under the same management. The Darbhanga Sugar Company, Limited has got at present (1962) two sugar factories at Lohat and Sakri.

Darbhanga Sugar Company, Limited, was incorporated in 1914 with a paid up capital of Rs. 6,50,000 and Lohat mill was erected out of this very capital with a crushing capacity of 400 tons per day. The present (1962) crushing capacity of the Lohat factory is 1,300 tons per day and this has been achieved at gradually by adding additional machinery.

The labour strength of the Lohat Sugar Works is 1,512, i.e., 1,151 in the factory, 244 outstation staff and 51 at their head office Darbhanga Sugar Company, Ltd., during the crushing season and 449 in all during off season.

Sakri Sugar Works, Sakri.

The Sakri Sugar Works, Sakri, was established with a capital investment of Rs. 13,00,000 with an installed crushing capacity of 750 tons per day which remains static till today (1962). The labour strength of Sakri Sugar Works is 1,052, i.e., 880 within the factory premises and 172 outstation during the crushing season and 241 during the off season.

The present (1962) authorised capital of Darbhanga Sugar Co. Ltd., Lohat, is Rs. 60,00,000 in 6,00,000 shares of Rs. 10 each; issued Rs. 39,00,000 in 3,90,000 shares of Rs. 10 each and subscribed Rs. 26,00,000 in 2,60,000 shares of Rs. 10 each. These figures are taken from the annual audited report of the concern for the year ending 31st August, 1961.

THE FOLLOWING CHART WILL SHOW THE WORKING OF THE LOHAT SUGAR WORKS FROM 1948-49 TO 1961-62:—

Year.	No. of working days.	Quantity of cane purchased.		Quantity of cane crushed.		Quantity of sugar manufactured.		Sugar recovery.	Amount of co-operative commission paid to the societies.	Amount of cane cess payable.	Cane cess paid.
1	2	3		4		5		6	7	8	9
		Mds.	Srs.	Mds.	Srs.	Mds.	Srs.	Percentage.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1948-49 ..	101	21,21,214	00	20,87,574	00	2,12,663	25	10.18	18,107 2 6	2,60,946 12 0	2,60,946 12 0
1949-50 ..	143	29,79,275	00	29,20,088	00	2,63,536	25	9.02	32,579 8 6	5,47,516 8 0	5,47,516 8 0
1950-51 ..	107	22,26,347	30	21,93,996	00	2,19,524	75	10.00	42,191 10 0	4,11,374 4 0	4,11,374 4 0
1951-52 ..	111	23,51,434	00	22,88,739	20	2,31,361	05	10.13	60,731 15 0	4,28,201 2 6	4,28,201 2 6
1952-53 ..	153	34,17,113	30	33,51,827	00	3,22,192	97	9.60	91,130 11 0	6,80,839 13 9	6,80,839 13 9
1953-54 ..	83	17,99,372	10	17,74,026	20	1,92,049	00	10.26	42,071 9 0	3,32,629 15 3	3,32,629 15 3
1954-55 ..	82	20,02,842	00	19,73,910	00	1,96,600	00	9.93	51,259 14 6	3,70,108 2 0	3,70,108 2 0
1955-56 ..	146	38,09,348	20	36,59,323	00	3,55,304	75	9.71	72,624 2 6	6,66,123 1 3	6,66,123 1 3
1956-57 ..	190	45,38,666	00	44,72,290	00	4,17,418	00	9.33	83,769 15 6	8,38,554 6 0	8,38,554 6 0
1957-58 ..	138	31,99,880	00	31,53,894	00	3,03,810	63	9.63	43,236.53 nP.	5,91,355.75 nP.	5,91,355.75 nP.
1958-59 ..	157	41,38,214	00	40,75,543	00	3,80,243	73	9.33	38,308.74 nP.	7,74,353.18 nP.	7,74,353.18 nP.
1959-60 ..	124	34,92,409	00	34,46,663	00	2,99,476	05	8.69	65,633.31 nP.	6,54,866.93 nP.	6,54,866.93 nP.
1960-61 ..	185	51,52,674	00	48,79,463	00	4,19,707	03	8.60	69,522.41 nP.	9,28,821.32 nP.	7,47,898.03 nP.
1961-62 ..	165	44,49,994	00	43,70,376	30	1,44,184	00	8.86	64,702.06 nP.	8,31,916.53 nP.	[illegible] nP.

THE FOLLOWING CHART WILL SHOW THE WORKING OF THE SAKRI SUGAR WORKS FROM 1948-49 TO 1961-62:—

Year.	No. of working days.	Quantity of cane purchased.	Amount of cane price due.	Quantity of cane crushed.	Quantity of sugar manufactured.	Percentage of sugar recovery.	Amount of co-operative commission paid to the society.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Mds. Srs.	Rs. a. p	Mds. Srs.	Mds. Srs.		Rs. a. p.
1948-49	93	16,05,926 00	Nil	15,88,050 00	1,79,233 00	11.29	10,139 0 0
1949-50	74	12,69,352 00	Nil	12,56,816 00	1,30,953 00	10.42	16,645 0 0
1950-51	71	13,12,466 00	Nil	12,97,902 00	1,38,766 00	10.77	17,992 0 0
1951-52	93	17,44,813 00	Nil	17,15,541 00	1,86,109 00	10.848	30,178 0 0
1952-53	105	27,05,923 00	Nil	26,61,652 00	2,65,596 00	9.978	55,764 0 0
1953-54	65	11,25,320 30	Nil	11,10,903 00	1,17,269 00	10.5	22,028 0 0
1954-55	87	13,97,142 30	28 3 6	13,78,434 10	1,51,097 00	10.96	28,516 2 6
1955-56	150	28,39,059 10	173 3 6	27,96,420 30	2,84,731 00	10.18	48,013 9 9
1956-57	160	30,03,711 20	342 6 6	28,47,098 00	2,26,884 00	9.44	53,575 9 3
			Rs. nP.				Rs. nP.
1957-58	107	19,79,041 20	389.29	19,42,867 00	1,91,428 00	9.85	37,994.95
1958-59	123	21,69,591 28	1,411.40	21,57,565 25	2,05,063 00	9.50	40,663.72
1959-60	107	19,34,978 15	2,182.21	19,04,951 11	1,71,043 00	8.98	34,266.27
		Q. Kg.	Q. Kg.	Q. Kg.	Q. Kg.		
1960-61	166	29,85,365.02	40,48,647.60	2,94,270.38	2,56,466.00	8.715	42,471.33
1961-62	169	9,74,339.31	35,09,105.06	9,59,406.23	83,810.98	8.736	44,571.09

Ryam Sugar Company, Limited, Ryam.—This is the oldest sugar mill in the district as mentioned before with M/s. Begg Sutherland & Co., Ltd., Kanpur as the Managing Agents. Since March, 1955, the management has changed hands.

Its authorised capital is Rs. 36,00,000, i.e., 80,000 six per cent cumulative shares of Rs. 10 each which comes to Rs. 8,00,000; 40,000 eight per cent redeemable preference shares of Rs. 10 each which comes to Rs. 4,00,000; and 2,40,000 ordinary shares of Rs. 10 each which comes to Rs. 24,00,000.

Its Issued and Subscribed capital is Rs. 24,00,000.

During the season approximately 1,100 workers are employed per day and during off season approximately 340 workers per day (1961).

In the beginning when the mill was started, it had a total crushing capacity of approximately 800 tons per day. Its capacity was extended to 1,250 tons per day in 1959. The present production (1961-62) is approximately 900 tons per day.

THE STATEMENT BELOW SHOWS THE WORKING OF THE RYAM SUGAR CO. LTD. FROM 1948-49 TO 1961-62:—

Year.	No. of working days.	Quantity of cane purchased.	Rate at the factory. Gate.	Rate at the factory. Outstation.	Amount of cane price paid.	Amount of cane price due.	Quantity of cane crushed.	Quantity of sugar manufactured.	Percentage of Sugar recovered.	The amount of commission paid to Societies.	Total area under cane.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Mds. Srs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Mds. Srs.	Mds. Srs.		Rs. a. p.	Acres.
1948-49 ..	60	11,17,448	1 13 0	1 11 0	20,25,375	..	11,09,315	1,64,465	11.55	18,454 0 3	8,072.50
1949-50 ..	84	15,30,566	1 11 0	1 9 0	23,58,486	..	15,15,889	1,74,933	10.85	27,749 13 0	9,309.30
1950-51 ..	90	15,67,312	1 12 0	1 10 0	27,42,796	..	15,51,063	1,74,934	11.28	27,766 2 0	9,435.62
1951-52 ..	112	18,94,068	1 12 0	1 10 0	33,40,100	..	18,73,915	2,11,452	11.28	38,020 15 0	12,648.99
1952-53 ..	144	23,95,162	1 5 0	1 3 0	29,14,151	..	23,19,823	2,42,759	10.20	47,394 7 6	16,363.05
1953-54 ..	64	10,34,318	1 7 0	1 5 0	14,25,717	..	10,28,167	1,13,782	11.06	16,658 13 0	9,886.50
1954-55 ..	83	14,39,167	1 7 0	1 5 0	19,06,050	..	14,29,046	1,58,477	10.74	N.A.	8,605.42
1955-56 ..	157	26,02,783	1 7 0	1 5 0	..	..	25,77,959	2,69,039	10.44	N.A.	14,598.63
1956-57 ..	208	32,77,919.10	1 7 0	1 5 0	45,31,629	..	32,32,812	2,95,516	9.14	52,841 0 0	20,190.16
			Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.				Rs. nP.	
1957-58 ..	144	22,57,414.30	1.44	1.31	31,34,806.00	..	22,28,906	2,22,072	9.95	35,785.00	18,217.04
1958-59 ..	125	20,31,352.20	1.62	1.50	28,22,082.00	..	20,03,733	1,97,651	9.87	33,738.00	17,281.20
1959-60 ..	102	19,57,614	1.62	1.50	30,83,803.00	..	19,29,528	1,72,962	8.96	40,344.00	17,878.04
		Q.	P.Q.	P.Q.			Q.Kg.	Q.Kg.			
1960-61 ..	N.A.	10,99,131.76	4.38	4.02	51,55,485.00	4,013.00	10,85,932.93	93,977.278	8.65	46,257.00	19,145.46
1961-62 ..	N.A.	9,96,400.92	5.54	4.02	25,11,758.00	17,18,068.00	9,90,629.74	82,570.091	8.34	12,000.00	23,049.03

Samastipur Central Sugar Company Limited, Samastipur.—Established by Messrs. Begg Sutherland the management of this concern changed to the hands of the British India Corporation and then the management has changed again to some persons of Calcutta. The head office of the concern is at Calcutta.

This factory is situated to the north-west of Samastipur town on the bank of the river Burhi Gandak. The authorised capital of the factory is Rs. 25,00,000 only and the invested capital is Rs. 11,99,795 only.

During 1960-61 the total number of labour employed in the factory was 1,127, i.e., Skilled 105, Semi-skilled 101, Unskilled 502, Supervisory 23, Clerical 73 and other employees 176. There are 264 out station staff, i.e., field staff for cane development and purchase, etc.

Till 1960-61 the working capacity of the factory was 795 tons per day. The factory has been provided with equipment to coup a crushing of 1,000 tons per day since 1961-62, though the desired result has not yet been achieved.

The statement below gives relevant data of the factory from 1948-49 to 1961-62:—

Samastipur Central Sugar Company Limited, Samastipur.

Year.	Duration of season days.	Total cane crushed in maunds.	Total sugar manufactured in maunds.	Recovery per cent.
1	2	3	4	5
1948-49	92	15,13,526	1,60,450	10.60
1949-50	143	19,99,631	1,98,358	9.62
1950-51	180	26,93,584	2,69,132	9.99
1951-52	132	19,42,763	1,94,547	10.01
1952-53	153	24,10,481	2,44,376	10.14
1953-54	87	13,09,719	1,26,370	9.65
1954-55	104	16,97,490	1,68,644	9.93
1955-56	186	28,35,276	2,64,330	9.32
1956-57	200	29,51,642	2,63,058	8.91
1957-58	104	20,90,638	2,07,563	9.93
1958-59	87	16,25,725	1,57,999	9.72
1959-60	126	24,25,442	2,20,101	9.07
		Quintals.	Quintals.	
1960-61	168	12,54,282.67 Kilogram.	1,08,522.67	8.65
1961-62	N.A.	9,69,299.22 Kilogram.	85,184	8.85

The rate of cane cess is 19 nP. per maund or 51 nP. per quintal. This cane cess is levied by the State Government and is deposited in the treasury by the Sugar factories

concerned. The statement below received from the Cane Inspector shows the cane cess of the factory:—

Season.	Amount of cane cess payable.	Amount of cane cess paid.	Balance to be paid.
1	2	3	4
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1948-49	1,89,190 12 6	1,89,190 12 6	Nil.
1949-50	3,74,968 5 0	3,74,968 5 0	Nil.
1950-51	5,05,047 0 9	5,05,047 0 9	Nil.
1951-52	3,64,267 15 6	3,64,267 15 6	Nil.
1952-53	4,51,965 2 3	4,51,965 2 3	Nil.
1953-54	2.45,572 5 0	2,45,572 5 0	Nil.
1954-55	3,18,279 6 9	3,18,279 6 9	Nil.
1955-56	5,31,614 2 0	5,31,614 2 0	Nil.
1956-57	5,53,470 8 0	5.53,470 8 0	Nil.
	Rs. nP.	Rs. nP	Rs. nP.
1957-58	3,91,994.57	3,91,994.57	Nil.
1958-59	3,08,887.75	3,08,887.75	Nil.
1959-60	4,07,833.98	1,61,193.66	2,99,640.32
1960-61	6,39,684.16	Nil.	6,39,634.16
1961-62	4,89,342.65	Nil.	4,89,342.65

As the cane cess is levied on the sugarcane entering into local premises of the factory it usually varies from year to year.

New India Sugar Mills Limited, Hasanpur.—This factory was established by Messrs. B.R. Loyalka of Calcutta. The management changed hands in 1938 and is now being managed by the Managing Agents who are the Cotton Agents Ltd. of Calcutta.

The capital invested in the year 1960-61 were :—

		Rs.
Authorised capital	..	50,00,000.00
Issued capital	..	23,00,000.00
Subscribed capital	..	18,37,700.00
Fixed capital at the beginning of the year. 1960		24,42,370.00
At the end of the year		23,35,179.00
Working and capital	..	1,01,87,700.00

The labour strength during the season is 823 and during the off season 285. This figure is only for the year 1960-61.

The present crushing capacity of this factory is 1,200 to 1,300 tons per day. The number of canegrowers supplying to mills is about 27,000 including members of Canegrowers' Co-operative Societies and non-members.

THE STATEMENT BELOW SHOWS THE WORKING OF THE SUGAR MILL FROM 1948-49 TO 1961-62.—

Year.	No. of working days.	Quantity of cane purchased.	Rate at the factory. Gate.	Rate at the factory. Out station.	Amount of cane price paid.	Quantity of cane crushed.	Quantity of Sugar manufactured	Percentage of sugar recovered.	Amount of co-operative commission paid to Societies.	Total area under cane.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Mds.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs	Mds.	Mds.		Rs.	Acres.
1948-49 ..	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	23,40,526	2,44,323	10.28	N.A.	15,578
1949-50 ..	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	32,24,658	2,95,028	9.23	N.A.	24,622
1950-51 ..	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	44,42,299	4,45,524	10.03	N.A.	31,647
1951-52 ..	133	32,73,554.20	1 12 0	1 10 0	57,40,609	32,39,966.30	3,38,910	10.45	50,829	25,363
1952-53 ..	170	39,50,218.10	1 5 0	1 3 0	49,35,516	39,27,315	3,93,267	10.01	54,140	27,377
1953-54 ..	117	27,98,538	1 7 0	1 5 0	38,29,837	27,80,001	2,68,500	9.66	26,408	30,000
1954-55 ..	131	33,49,917	1 7 0	1 5 0	46,29,364	33,24,501	3,34,931	10.07	43,974	N.A.
1955-56 ..	180	46,24,940.20	1 7 0	1 5 0	62,31,706	45,74,333	4,33,038	9.46	59,622	N.A.
1956-57 ..	190	51,92,835.80	1 7 0	1 5 0	40,59,335	51,58,581	4,72,426	9.17	60,158	41,489
			Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.					
1957-58 ..	135	37,26,965.10	1.44	1.31	50,99,317.87	36,98,341	3,73,159	10.09	42,102	32,345
1958-59 ..	112	33,11,052.10	1.62	1.50	45,59,491.54	32,88,397	3,22,226	9.80	44,484	28,592
1959-60 ..	148	43,02,538.20	1.62	1.50	66,80,846.19	42,70,529	3,91,245.25	9.16	58,517	30,518
			Per Q.	Per.Q.		Q.	Q.			
1960-61 ..	181	53,12,615	4.38	4.02	82,48,390.81	52,77,537	4,80,325.05	9.11	69,239	36,013
1961-62 ..	192	53,20,400	4.34	4.02	62,81,428.53	52,92,562	4,78,533	9.08	N.A.	30,335

The statement below shows the cane cess paid by this concern to the Government from 1948-49 to 1961-62:—

Season.	Amount of cane cess payable.	Amount of cane cess paid.	Balance to be paid.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1948-49	2,92,565 12 0	2,92,565 12 0	Nil.
1949-50	4,38,848 10 0	4,38,848 10 0	Nil.
1950-51	8,32,931 1 9	8,32,931 1 9	Nil.
1951-52	6,07,493 12 3	6,07,493 12 3	Nil.
1952-53	7,97,735 14 6	7,97,735 14 6	Nil.
1953-54	5,21,267 3 3	5,21,267 3 3	Nil.
1954-55	6,23,343 15 0	6,23,343 15 0	Nil.
1955-56	8,57,687 7 0	8,57,687 7 0	Nil.
1956-57	8,97,568 5 3	8,97,568 5 3	Nil.
	Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.	Rs. nP.
1957-58	6,93,438.94	6,93,438.94	Nil.
1958-59	6,24,795.43	6,24,795.43	Nil.
1959-60	8,12,908.89	7,95,287.56	17,621.33
1960-61	10,04,599.88	9,25,392.76	79,207.12
1961-62	10,02,202.98	1,50,000.00	8,52,202.98

Paper Mills.

Consumption of paper is a sign of advancement of the country. With the spread of education the demand for paper has gone up tremendously and will go on increasing. After independence there has been a spurt in industrialisation and a large number of development projects and expansion of Government departments have been taken up. All this will mean more consumption of paper. Paper Industry has not yet much developed in India due to most unfavourable conditions of the availability of basic celluloid raw materials like suitable wood, bamboo, etc. Whatever raw materials are available they are not sufficient at one place to feed a big plant. Due to long distances the cost of transportation considerably affects the cost of production. Besides transport, water resources and electric power are also not available in adequate quantity at places where other conditions may be found favourable for putting up a big plant. Hence it has been found essential to install plant of 10/15 tons per day capacity and employ raw materials like straws and sugarcane bagasse which are locally available in the district of Darbhanga. The water resources and electric power supply also do not become problem as the magnitude of the requirements is small for such plants. Consequently the problem of effluent is also minimised in the district.

As regards suitability of rice and wheat straws for the production of superior grades of paper, there is no doubt as the utilisation of these agricultural residues have already gone beyond the experimental stage as many such production units are functioning with success in several countries of the world.

Under such circumstances the Government was willing to establish paper mills in the district. Hence two private paper mills, i.e., Thakur Paper Mills Limited and Ashok Paper Mills Limited, with the approval of the Government are to be established here.

Thakur Paper Mills Limited.—The Company was incorporated on 20th July 1954 under the name and style of "India Ferro Alloys Limited" with the registered office at Samastipur which obtained the certificate of commencement of business on 20th July 1955. The Company was formed with its main object to carry on the business of manufactures and dealers in all kinds of alloys, ferrous and non-ferrous, metallic and non-metallic, etc. Considering the great prospect of Paper Industry, this firm applied for a licence for the manufacture of writing and printing paper which was granted in the year 1960. All the assets of the India Ferro Alloys Limited were transferred to the newly constituted Company under the caption "Thakur Paper Mills Limited", a public limited company with its registered office at Samastipur. Its Managing Agents are Messrs. Ram Bahadur Thakur & Co. with the registered office at Samastipur, and there is another office at 135, Canning Street, Calcutta.

The Company has been floated with an authorised capital of Rs. 1,00,00,000 in 10,00,000 equity shares of Rs. 10 each; Issued, Subscribed and Paid-up Capital Rs. 3,00,000 in 30,000 equity shares of Rs. 10 each fully called and paid-up in cash.

The Industrial Corporation of India and Bihar State Financial Corporation have sanctioned long-term loans of Rs. 20 lakhs and Rs. 10 lakhs respectively. Both the loans are against equitable mortgage of fixed and other capital assets on usual terms ranking *pari passu* charges. The loan of Bihar State Financial Corporation will carry interest at the rate of 6½ per cent subject to rebate at the rate of ½ per cent on prompt payment of interest and is repayable in 12 yearly instalments, first of which is payable on 1st January 1965. The Managing Agents have agreed to furnish personal guarantees for the aforesaid two loans.

The Company has installed a Paper Mill with a daily production capacity of 10 tons of twenty-four hours working. The Company had considered the possible site for location of the mill and it was decided to locate the factory at Samastipur by the side of the river Burhi Gandak in Darbhanga district. The selection of site was also approved by Messrs. Kuisho Trading Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan, the supplier of machinery for the project. The plant also includes a Chlorination Tower which will give additional facility in high percentage of pulp and its quality which is a special advantage to this Paper Mill. The Import Licence for the import of main paper plant and machinery was obtained under

Yen Credit Agreement between the Government of India and Japan. The suppliers have also agreed to carry out the erection of the plant and they would also render necessary technical assistance for the working of the plant.

Orders was placed for the indigenous machinery and equipments required for the mill, which have already been supplied to the Company. The machinery and plant of the Mill has been so arranged that with addition to some of the machinery worth Rs. 75,000, the production capacity can be raised to 15 to 20 tons per day. The Company has already applied for further licence to manufacture special quality paper which is not being manufactured in India with an additional capacity of 7½ tons per day. The Company will take up the necessary steps towards expansion scheme as soon as the Mill goes to production. The construction work of the Mill is about to finish now (July, 1962) and it is expected *that it will go into production soon.**

Sufficient quantity of raw materials like rice and wheat straw, waste paper, rags, sugarcane bagassee are available around the proposed site of the factory which can be procured without any difficulty at economical rates. The Company has decided to produce paper out of *sabai* grass, rice and wheat straw, waste paper, etc. These raw materials especially rice and wheat straw are available in the district in abundance and also from Patna, Champaran, Monghyr districts and the *sabai* grass will be procured from the forests of South Bihar especially from the forests of Raj Mahal Hills and Hazaribagh.

The site is on the bank of the river Burhi Gandak which has a perennial flow of water. It will provide facility for the adequate supply of water for the Mill as well as it offers good channel for the disposal of effluent on the processing.

Coal will be available from South Bihar for which there is a good arrangement of rail transport over the Rajendra *Pul* at Mokameh on the river Ganga. Electric power will be required at the first stage to the extent of 1200 K.W. The power will be available from the Government Power House located at Samastipur. The State Government of Bihar has agreed to supply adequate electric power as and when required.

North Bihar being economically underdeveloped has plenty of cheap labour. The labourers are very hard workers and it is hoped that they will be very useful for the industry. Very good rail, road and water transport are available around the Paper Mill site. The Mill is situated on the Barauni-Darbhanga and Lucknow-Katihar meter gauge line on the North Eastern Railway. The broad gauge line has linked Samastipur directly with Calcutta and South Bihar.

*Paper manufactured by this Mill is in the market now (August, 1962).

Ashok Paper Mills Ltd.—The Company was registered in the year 1957. It is a private limited concern. The Company has been established to manufacture paper with the waste paper, *sabai* grass and sugarcane bagasse which is easily available in the district. This will have its factory at Hayaghat on the Samastipur-Darbhanga line of the North-Eastern Railway. In May, 1962 its foundation stone has been laid down by the Chief Minister Sri B.N. Jha.

The management are now engaged in erecting the buildings.

SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES.

Darbhanga is essentially an agricultural district but there are also a number of small-scale industries and some of them are being revived. Some of them like weaving, textiles, mats, rope-making, pottery, etc., are indigenous and very old. Broadly the small-scale industries may be classified under the following main heads:—

(1) Automobile Workshops, (2) Bakeries, (3) Bidi-making, (4) Brick manufacturing, (5) Carpentry, (6) Chemical Industries, (7) Cold Storage, (8) Dyeing and Printing, (9) Engineering Workshop, (10) Fibre Working, (11) Flour Mills, (12) Goldsmiths, (13) Ice-cream factories, (14) Leather Works and Tanneries, (15) *Makhana*, (16) Mat, (17) Metal, (18) Musical Instruments, (19) Non-ferrous Metal Bell, (20) Oil Mills, (21) Pottery, (22) Printing Press, (23) Rice Mills, (24) Slate Pencil, (25) *Sikki* goods, (26) Smithy and Manufacture of Iron Goods, (27) Tile, (28) Trunk Factories and (29) Weaving and Spinning.

Automobile Workshops.

Prior to 1953, there was only one workshop of this type under the caption "M/s. Darbhanga Motor and Engineering Works, Lalbagh, Darbhanga" but now the automobile section has been closed. This workshop used to repair motor, truck, bus, tractor and other kinds of oil engines. Now, there are three auto-workshops, namely, Mithila Automobiles, Darbhanga, Sardar Auto Works, Laheriasarai and Benari Automobiles, Samastipur. Besides there are a number of one and two men units which are engaged in the repair of automobiles. There is possibility of more of them particularly in Samastipur owing to the expansion of automobile industries. There is no large automobile workshops with modern equipment and Technical skill of high order.

Bakeries.

There are a number of bakeries in the urban areas and some in the larger villages. Only one of them at Darbhanga, Pansari Biscuits, uses power. They are all small units, engaging

a few persons and with a small investment. The consumption is entirely local. The average daily production of the units varies from 10 to 40 lbs. Their equipments consist of metal sheets, frames, cutters, wrappers, etc. Pansari Biscuits have some modern machineries.

Bamboo wares.

Bamboo workers are to be found practically all over the district. The main raw material is bamboo which is found in abundance in the district. The price of 100 bamboos varies at present (1962) from Rs. 125.00 to Rs. 175.00. The tools used are chisels, cutters and bends. They turn out baskets, winnowing fans, fans, curtains and other small articles for household use. A worker works from eight to ten hours a day and produces two baskets from one bamboo, earning about Rs. 40.00 per month. Since the worker has to sell his goods by hawking, he is often forced to sell his goods at a disadvantage to himself in order not to have his funds locked up in unsold goods. They have got good earning during the marriage seasons. In this profession mostly Doms are engaged. This industry is carried on cottage industries basis.

Bidi-making.

Making of *Bidi* or the poor men's smoke is an important industry of the district.

This industry gives employment to hundreds of men, women and children throughout the year. *Bidis* are made entirely by manual process and the output depends on experience. The raw materials are imported: tobacco from Gujrat, *kend* leaves from Singhbhum, Palamau and other places. The *Bidis* have a good market outside and within the district. The *Bidi* units may be both small and large. One unit at Samastipur employs about 400 workers and is the largest unit.

No tools are required for preparing *bidis* except a furnace and from one to ten metal trays, big *chalani* (prepared with the help of a square or rectangular wooden frame and metal net, etc., for heating and baking the *bidis*. A good worker produces as many as 1,500 *bidis* a day. A single worker requires very little investment in his business. A factory owner, however, is required to invest as much as Rs. 10,000 if he has to employ 100 workers.

Brick manufacturing.

There are about 40 brick-kiln chimney works in the district. Due to a large number of rivers and tanks, the suitable earth for its manufacture is easily available. A unit of 15 labourers can

produce 75,000 bricks per month. This requires an investment of Rs. 16,000 only approximately. Work is not possible during the rainy season and workers get employment for about six months in a year at the chimney.

Butter, cream and ghee.

The preparation of butter and ghee is carried on throughout the district.

The Milk Products Factory at Madhepur prepares *ghee* and butter in large quantities and the produce has a fairly good market.

There are about 1,500 milk separators supplied by middlemen or owned privately which are in active operation at village homes. It has almost become a cottage industry and the villagers separate cream which is collected by the middlemen and sent to bigger markets like Patna, Bhagalpur or Calcutta.

The price of milk separators range from Rs. 200 to Rs. 1,700, i.e., indigenous separators (Darbhanga make) for Rs. 200; Rs. 900 for Aligarh make and Rs. 1,700 for foreign make ones. Two men working on a superior type milk separator may be able to turn out about 35 lbs. of cream. About 4,000 persons are engaged in this industry.

Carpentry.

Carpenters are found all over the district. There is heavy concentration of carpenters at Manigachhi, Jitwarpur, Warisnagar and in the towns. The carpenters of rural areas are mainly engaged in supply and repair of agricultural implements and bullock carts, ordinary type of furniture, while in the towns they are engaged in making furniture, miscellaneous wares or in wood-work for houses.

The raw materials used are wood, nails, screws, paints and polishes, which have either to be imported from outside or locally purchased. Timber, i.e., *shisam*, mango, *jamun*, *sal*, etc., are easily available. *Shisam*, mango, *jamun*, *sal*, etc., wood are to be found in abundance within the district and *sal* wood is brought from the bordering forests of Nepal. Tools which are commonly used are planes, chisels, hammers, pliers, saws, etc. The wood in the form in which it is imported is cut into pieces of required size in saw mills at the towns like Laheriasarai, Darbhanga, Madhubani, etc., and in the rural areas the carpenters cut them by their hand driven saws.

There are about five saw mills registered under section 2m(*ii*) of the Factories Act, 1948, situated at Laheriasarai, Darbhanga,

Madhubani, Jaynagar. They use electric power or oil engines and the investment in the machinery for a saw mill is about Rs. 6,000.00.

Skilled workers now (1962) earn between Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 a month. In rural areas, their monthly income may vary from Rs. 50 to Rs. 70, part of which may be in kind.

Co-operation seems to have made little headway among this class of artisans though efforts are being made to bring them under its fold at Darbhanga Sadar, Madhubani and Samastipur sub-divisions. Several Co-operative Societies are functioning all over the district and special mention has to be made for Raghopur Vishwakarma Industrial Co-operative Society, Baheri Kashtha Kala Industrial Co-operative Society, etc. They are engaged in manufacture of furniture as well as repair and manufacture of agricultural implements.

Chemical Industries.

There are only two small units of chemical industries running in the district. They are Tirhut Chemicals, Madhubani and Ambashtha Chemicals, Patori, functioning since 1959-60. They manufacture Nitric Acid, Hydrochloric Acid, Battery Acid and Distilled Water.

Cold Storage and Ice-cream factories.

There are now (1962) three cold storages, one at Samastipur and two at Darbhanga. They are usually used for storing potatoes.

There are a large number of small units making Ice-cream of rather inferior quality.

Many of these Ice-cream units have also *Atta* mills combined.

Dyeing and Printing.

The indigenous cotton textiles of Darbhanga will have a better market if they are properly dyed and printed. A Government sponsored dyeing-*cum*-finishing plant has been set up at Darbhanga and is expected to go into production soon. The total capital invested in this plant is Rs. 6,27,678.

The plant is well equipped with bleaching and dyeing equipments and a calendering machine. The handloom weavers will have to pay a nominal charge of 19 nP. per lb. for bleaching and 50 nP. to 62 nP. per lb. for dyeing of yarn and 02 nP. per yard as calendering charges for cloth.

The capacity of the plant is (*a*) dyeing of yarn 800 lbs. per day, per shift of eight hours, (*b*) bleaching of cloth 2,000 lbs. per day, per shift of eight hours and (*c*) finishing of cloth 24,000 yards per day, per shift of eight hours.

The dyeing of cloth is likely to be attached with this unit in the near future.

There are a number of small dyeing and printing units registered and unregistered in the district apart from this Government unit. They do not have more than Rs. 4,000 as investment. Most of them are concentrated at Madhubani, Darbhanga, Laheriasarai and Samastipur. The Government *Khadi Gramodyog Samiti* of Madhubani has a dyeing and printing unit.

At *Gramodyog Sangh*, Madhubani, only *khadi* cloth is printed and dyed in a large quantity.

The monthly earnings of the skilled and unskilled workers vary between Rs. 50 to Rs. 70 and Rs. 20 to Rs. 40 respectively.

Engineering Workshops.

The N.E. Railway Workshop at Samastipur is the oldest one in the district. Samastipur is the Divisional headquarters of the N.E. Railway. This is a repairing workshop with a moulding shop where casting of wheels and other accessories are turned out. It employs about 728 workers. The raw materials are supplied by the Assistant Controller of Stores, N.E. Railway, Samastipur and the manfactured goods are utilised by the Railways.

There are a number of smaller Engineering Workshops including the Pioneer Foundry and Engineering Works at Darbhanga which has a somewhat bigger workshop. Accessories for sugar, rice, oil and *dal* mills are moulded or repaired in these units. Pig iron and iron scraps are the main raw materials which are locally purchased either on Government permit or in the open market. Coal is supplied through the controlled agency. The manufactured goods are used in the mills and the factories of the district. Articles manufactured by this workshop are sold either in the local markets or directly to the consumers.

Flour Mills.

Flour mills or *Atta Chakkis* are scattered throughout the district. They are more concentrated in towns and large villages. The flour mills engage from 2 to 6 workers per day and grind food-grains, pulses and spices. They have got motors, small or big, run by diesel or electricity. A few of these larger flour mills at

Laheriasarai, Darbhanga, Rusera, Dalsingsarai and Samastipur purchase grains and grind them. The smaller units grind and charge small fees and process grains brought by others.

Ironsmithy.

Members of the *lohar* caste usually follow the occupation of ironsmithy. Ironsmiths are distributed all over the district and on a cottage industry basis or as family units make various kinds of goods consumed for household or agricultural purposes. There are concentrations of ironsmithy in the urban areas as well as in large villages like Maharajganj, Sariso, Khajauli (Madhubani subdivision), and Pithiagachhi in Samastipur Subdivision. There are a number of smiths at Bahadurpur just east of the Laheriasarai railway station.

There are a number of small workshops in Darbhanga, Samastipur and Dalsingsarai where 10 to 20 people are engaged and agricultural implements, household utensils, trunks and other goods are manufactured. Galvanised iron pipes are being manufactured by several units in Samastipur and Darbhanga.

Non-availability of coal and iron or their restricted supply are the usual problems.

Non-ferrous Metal and Bell Metal Industries.

Small-scale industrial units for the manufacture of household utensils of German silver, brass, etc., are functioning in the district since two decades. The raw materials such as German silver, brass ingots and zinc are obtained from the local markets at comparatively higher prices and as such the industry is unable to compete with the finished goods supplied from Calcutta and Mirzapur.

In the beginning the industry was faced with dearth of skilled and trained workers and as such they had to be brought from Mirzapur on high wages but now the local workers have been trained.

There are only two main centres, i.e., Madhubani and Darbhanga, of this industry in the district. So far only one firm under the caption "Bihar Metal Industries, Darbhanga," is carrying on this industry on an organised scale. The firm was given start in the year 1948 and manufactures tumblers and other receptacles of *Mirzapuri* pattern, dishes and *katoras* of *Bishnupuri* design, *Jaipuri Pahaldar lota* of Delhi pattern and *Prayagi lota* of Varanasi design. There is good demand for the products throughout the State. Besides there is a good cluster of artisans at Jhanjharpur, Sariso, Donar (within the vicinity of Darbhanga town), etc. They also manufacture household utensils. No sheet metal is used in the manufacture of utensils.

Though a good number of people are engaged in Bell Metal Industry at Jhanjharpur and Madhubani, it is carried on half-heartedly and on a disorganised basis. A particular caste, ***Kasera***, is engaged in this industry.

Due to financial difficulties these workers have to cater to the whims of the *Mahajans* who finance them. Some of them work on daily wages or piece wages. There are some families who work on their own accord and they themselves procure raw materials, manufacture goods and sell them There are at present (1962) about 500 *Kaseras* engaged in this industry.

The Government had taken measures to bring them under co-operative fold and two Industrial Co-operative Societies, i.e., Jhanjharpur Kanskar Industrial Co-operative Society and Sariso Kanskar Industrial Society were registered in 1956 with a share capital of Rs. 295 and Rs. 210, working capital Rs. 2,302 and Rs. 810, membership 34 and 21 respectively. The Government had given them an advance of Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 150 respectively. There has been very little improvement in the condition of the workers or the trade.

Printing Press.

The following are the important printing presses of the district:—

(1) Darbhanga Press Co. (Private) Ltd., Darbhanga, (2) Sudarshan Press, Darbhanga, (3) Nirman Press, Darbhanga, (4) Tirhut Press, Laheriasarai, (5) Panchayat Press, Laheriasarai, (6) Nav Bharat Prakashan, Laheriasarai, (7) Bihar Press, Laheriasarai, (8) Mahabir Press, Madhubani, (9) Janta Press, Madhubani, (10) Kishore Press, Samastipur, (11) Prabhat Press, Samastipur, etc.

Besides, there are a number of small printing press units operating in the district. None of the presses is equipped to do more than ordinary job work. Most of them are still run on manual process.

Rice and Oil Mills.

As mentioned, paddy is the main crop of the district and so a large number of rice mills are situated in different parts of the district. At Jaynagar, bordering Nepal, these mills are concentrated. Nepal produces paddy in huge quantity which is generally husked at the mills located at Jaynagar. Oil section is also attached to a few rice mills and when these rice mills sit idle due to the shortage of paddy they crush oil.

The establishment of several hullers within Nepal has affected this industry. Further, no extension has taken place except the

increase in the capacity due to the implementation of the recommendations of the Rice Mills [Committee Report (1957-58). No futher registration of rice mills is encouraged [by] the Government.

The following is the list of rice mills with the number of labourers and approximate production per day:---

Serial no.	Name of the mills.	Place.	No. of labourers.		Production per day in tons.
			Season.	Off season.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Shri Mahabir Rice and Oil Mills.	Darbhanga ..	100	25	12
2	Thakur Ram Ganga Prasad Rice and Oil Mills.	Ditto ..	55	30	9
3	Bajrang Rice Mills ..	Jaynagar ..	71	36	12
4	Bishnu Rice Mills	Ditto ..	78	Nil	12
5	Rajput Rice Mills ..	Ditto ..	90	40	12
6	Giribardhari Rice and Oil Mills.	Ditto ..	70	24	9
7	Mahabir Rice Mills ..	Ditto ..	80	26	10
8	Annapurna Rice Mills	Ditto ..	52	22	7
9	Kamala Rice Mills ..	Ditto ..	72	26	8
10	Ganesh Rice Mills ..	Ditto ..	82	25	10
11	Hanuman Rice Mills	Ditto ..	25	Nil	8
12	Boobna Rice Mills	Ditto ..	95	30	12
13	Pahsupati Rice and Oil Mills.	Ditto ..	20	Nil	7
14	Bihar Rice and Oil Mills.	Ditto ..	20	Nil	12
15	Sri Chiranji Rice Mills	Ghoghardiha ..	100	24	12
16	Mahalakshmi Rice Mills	Ditto ..	62	25	9
17	Sri Ganesh Rice Mills	Ushrahi ..	66	26	8
18	New Rice Mills ..	Katrahia ..	65	24	7
19	Sri Sundra Rice Mills	Narahia ..	55	21	6
20	Baidyanath Rice Mills	Jhanjharpur	65	Nil	10
21	Janaki Rice Mills ..	Sampataha ..	43	Nil	9
22	Jai Hind Rice Mills	Laukahi ..	40	Nil	8

The district grows a lot of linseed and mustard and a number of oil mills with no ancillary rice-milling have been running quite profitably.

The capital invested in these oil mills vary from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 7,00,000. It depends upon the crushing capacity of each unit. The labour strength varies from 10 to 100 workers per day. Mostly the concerns are on partnership basis except Thakur Ram Ganga Prasad (Private), Limited.

The crushing capacity also varies from 15 to 200 maunds per day. The annual production of these units is about 2,000 tons of oil.

Mostly oil expellers and oil *kolhus* are used for crushing of seeds. Oil expellers are mostly in the urban areas. At Darbhanga and Samastipur there are oil expellers, *oil ghani* and at Madhubani there are small oil extractors. Steam (boilers), oil engines and the electricity are prime mover. These are the main sources of power supply.

The mustard oil produced is locally consumed and a part of it is exported to Nepal. The linseed oil produced is also consumed by the lower strata of the society and partly sold to paint factories at Calcutta.

The following are the important oil mills of the district:—

(1) M/s. Thakur Ram Gango Prasad, Private Limited, Darbhanga, established in the year 1910 and employs 50 workers per day;
(2) M/s. Mahabirjee Rice and Oil Mills, Darbhanga, established in the year 1912, employing 50 workers per day;
(3) M/s. Brjrang Oil Mills, Jaynagar, established in the year 1935 and employs 40 workers per day;
(4) Kejriwal Oil Mills, Darbhanga, established in the year 1950 and employs 50 workers per day; and
(5) M/s. Rani Sati Industries, Darbhanga, established in the year 1954 and employs 35 workers per day.

Besides there are about 20 other small units engaged in thi industry.

Slate Pencil Industries.

There are two establishments under the name and style of Ambika Slate Pencil Factory and Lakshmi Slate Pencil Factory established in 1952 and 1959 respectively within the vicinity of Darbhanga town. The equipments are pressure machines, ten electric motors of one horse power each, driers (wooden planks 200

in number), cutters (ten in number), etc., which all can be procured at a capital investment of Rs. 10,000 but at present about Rs. 5,000 without motors due to inadequate supply of power. The main raw material chalk-powder is obtained from Porbandar and gum and flour locally. The daily outturn of goods is worth Rs. 250 to Rs. 300. There are ten workers employed in each establishment. The manufactured goods are marketed within the district as well as are supplied to Muzaffarpur, Purnea, Champaran, Saharsa, etc.

Soap and Silicate.

The following are the more important of the concerns engaged in Soap and Silicate industries:—

(1) M. D. Lal and Sons, Madhubani;
(2) M. D. Lal and Sons, Darbhanga;
(3) Hakim Abdul and C. Wasey, Pakki Haveli, Darbhanga;
(4) Jagdish Soap Factory, Rahamganj, Darbhanga;
(5) Gouri Shankar Kishan Soap Factory, Jaynagar;
(6) Santosh Soap Factory, Kalasthan, Darbhanga, etc.

Among all these M. D. Lal and Sons, Madhubani is the oldest concern which was started in the year 1939. M. D. Lal and Sons at the Industrial Estate, Darbhanga is mainly engaged in the production of silicate and it is the only factory which is engaged in the manufacture of silicate. The rest of the factories are engaged mainly in the manufacture of washing soap. Besides the abovementioned factories there are several small enterprises engaged in this industry.

Tile-making.

The Government had sanctioned a tile factory under the Second Five-Year Plan. The actual construction of the factory at Sakri was completed in 1960-61. The factory has not gone into production at present (July, 1962) due to delay in getting equipments.

Total capital invested in the factory is Rs. 1,00,000. The capacity of the factory is 1,000 tiles per day at present (1962) and if extended the production can be raised to 3,500 tiles per day and some other terracotta ware may also be manufactured.

There are two other small and private tile factories with a capital investment of Rs. 5,000 each employing about 13 to 14 workers per day. These tile factories are also located at Sakri. One of the factories has been granted a Government loan of Rs. 5,000 by the District Industries Office, Darbhanga. They have gone into production having a capacity of 500 to 600 tiles per day. They are using no machinery. Their manufactured tiles are being locally consumed.

Tanning and Leather Works.

Indigenous methods of tanning and ordinary leather ware are made throughout the district by cobblers either as family units or in units of a few of them. Pioneering work in tanning was done in the private sector at Sagarpur near Sakri during the Second World War. This has now developed into a small tannery under the Bihar *Khadi* Board in 1957-58 manufacturing suit-cases, footwear, purses, etc. There is another Government project at Sakri functioning since April, 1961. The unit can tan 100 pieces of chrome leather and 30 buffalo hides per day. The finished goods are marketed to different places within the State. People also bring hides which are tanned.

The unit does not utilise the fleshings and hair as type products. There is no dearth of hides in this area. It is a pity that educated youngmen and the cobblers are not taking advantage to learn the better techniques.

The Co-operative Department have helped in the formation of a number of Co-operative Societies for the leather workers at Ekmighat, Darbhanga, Laheriasarai, Bhagwatipur, Harlakhi, Pandaul, Samastipur and Pusa and technical and financial helps are being given to the Societies.

The leather products of Sagarpur tannery are sold through their sales depot at Laheriasarai and also sent outside the district. Both the units at Sagarpur and Sakri are under the Directorate of Industries.

The Industrial Co-operative Society at Pusa established in 1959 under the Pilot Project Programme also manufactures footwear, suit-cases, etc.

Umbrella Industries.

There is only one such establishment Jalan Umbrella Manufacturing Co., Darbhanga, which was established in 1952. The price also is comparatively cheaper than that of the imported umbrellas. They have imported 10 skilled labourers from the Calcutta Umbrella Union. They all are paid piece wages varying from 25 nP. to Rs. 1.37 per dozen. The capacity is 1,500 dozens per year. The raw materials like umbrella cloth, bamboo stick, wire, runners are imported from Calcutta and Bombay. It supplies its finished goods practically to the whole of North Bihar.

Weaving and Spinning.

Spinning and weaving are very old and highly developed handicrafts in this district. There are still Maithil ladies who spin very

fine yarn and can weave beautiful textiles. It is said that some of them can spin the length of yarn needed for a sacred thread (*Janau*) and put it in the capsule of a cardamom. In this respect Maithil ladies stand a comparison with the ladies of Assam. The core of the Maithil country is Madhubani subdivision and naturally very high quality textiles produce of handloom are produced there.

The Bihar *Khadi Samiti* of Madhubani works through 18 branches scattered over the whole subdivision of Madhubani and has given a great encouragement to the handloom industry. Cotton is imported from Bombay, Wardha, Siwan, etc., and after carding, it is given to people, males or females.

The manufactured *Khadi* cloth is exported widely. The *Khadi* muslin of Madhubani has a great reputation.

The *Samiti* also manufactures silk and woollen cloth as well.

There are also a number of other concerns engaged in the manufacture of *Khadi* and silk. There is a big village known as Bhauara where more than 1,500 weavers are engaged in weaving.

In addition, spinning and weaving are carried on in the villages near Dalsingsarai, Pusa Road, Andhra Thari, Kapsia, Koilakh, Kamtaul, Pandaul, Rajnagar, Jhanjharpur, Tuamul, Makranpur, Mohammadpur, Simri, Behata, Sakarpur, Namdul, Beraul, Laheriasarai, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Madhepur, etc. There are more than 25,000 of such workers scattered all over the district.

They manufacture bed sheets, *saris*, *dhotis*, towels, curtains, shirtings, *kokti* cloth, etc. *Kokti* cotton is greyish and when the cloth is ready it looks like silk and has a countrywide reputation.

A few Government power-looms are also functioning in the district. There are two depots at Madhubani and Laheriasarai for handloom cloth. Madhubani depot is the biggest receiving and supply centre within the State and both of these depots are the branch depots of the Bihar State Handloom Union, Patna.

The annexed tables will give the clear picture of Weavers' Industrial Co-operative Societies, Looms, etc.

TABLE I

SHOWING THE WEAVERS' SOCIETIES, NUMBER, MEMBERSHIP, LIABILITIES AND ASSETS FOR THE YEAR 1960-61.

Number of societies in different circles.	Number of members.	Paid-up Capital.		Reserve and others.	Borrowings.				
		Total amount.	Individuals and others.		Total.	Government.	Central financing agencies.	Others including deposits.	*All other liabilities and total liabilities.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Laheriasarai, 51	4,918	1,10,208.36	1,10,208.36	30,576.26	3,88,459.27	2,09,694.27	76,202.65	1,02,562.55	26,128.54 5,55,372.43
Madhubani, 100	8,838	1,94,971.00	1,94,971.00	14,926.00	10,24,849.00	4,25,779.00	22,193.00	3,77,877.00	53,535.00 12,87,981.00
Samastipur, 12	556	11,090.00	11,090.00	720 00	24,567.00	14,326.00	7,993.00	2,245.00	2,191.00 56,86,800.00

Number of societies in different circles.	Stock.				Investments.	Plants and equipments.	All other assets.	Total assets.	Differences (+) or (—) between assets and liabilities.
	At the beginning of the year.		At the end of the year.						
	Raw materials.	Finished goods.	Raw materials.	Finished goods.					
1	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Laheriasarai, 51.	64,602.91	21,343.04	74,557 51	13,900.32	52,173.00	476.62	7,00,922.56	1,53,572.20	+2,01,303.46 —3,103.69
Madhubani, 100.	96,620.00	43,627.00	64,535.00	27 33,500.00	1,46,027.00	108.00	16,23,551.00	18,61,576.00	+1,98,299.77 +5,73,395.00 +11,005.00
Samastipur, 12.	6,202.00	3,370.00	12,215.00	3,374.00	2,850.00	906.00	29,928.00	49,273.00	—299.00 +10,706.00

*There are two figures in this column. The upper figure of other liabilities and the lowest one, the total liabilities.

TABLE II

SHOWING WEAVERS' SOCIETIES, OPERATION AND MEMBERSHIP DURING THE YEAR 1960-61.

Number of societies in different circles of the district.	Production.	Sales.	Government aid.				
			Loan			Subsidies.	
			Construction of godowns.	Construction of housing colonies.	Other purposes.	Construction of godowns.	Construction of housing colonies.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.				
Laheriasarai, 51	3,02,880.77	3,10,302.89	..	..	..	..	..
Samastipur, 12	35,430.00	37,900.00	..	..	..	..	..
Madhubani, 100	15,63,872.00	18,35,333.00	5,000.00	..	..	..	..

Number of societies in different circles of the district.	Government aid—*concld.* Subsidies—*concld.* Cost of management.	Rebate to customers.	Cost of management. Salary and wages.	Other experses.	Profit.	Loss.	Number of members at the beginning of the year.	Number of members at the end of the year.
1	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.
Laheriasarai, 51 ..	..	.	4,709.00	27,758.05	5.445.53	14,954.10	4.948.00	4,948.00
Samastipur, 12 ..	..	..	11,084.00	1,138.00	1,004.00	117.00	556.00	556.00
Madhubani, 100 ..	..	1,67,618.00	4, 31,252.00	1,04,506.00	3,811.00	67,510.00	7,130.00	7,130.00

TABLE III

SHOWING GODOWNS HIRED, OWNED, NUMBER OF LOOMS AND NUMBER OF LOOMS ACTUALLY WORKING, ETC., DURING 1960-61.

Name of the circles.	Number of godowns hired.	Number of godowns owned.	Number of looms owned by members.	Number of looms actually working.	Number of pattern making societies.	Number of dye factories.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Laheriasarai	Nil	Nil	3,480	1,167	Nil	Nil
Samastipur	Nil	Nil	556	313	Nil	Nil
Madhubani	94	Nil	7 130	4,906	Nil	Nil

NEW SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES

After the enactment of the Bihar State Aid to Industries Act, 1956, there has been a turn in the development of industries and some new types of mechanised small-scale industries are being turned out. Members of business community assured of Government assistance under the State Aid to Industries Act and supply of controlled commodity especially iron and steel material have stepped into this sphere. In the beginning these small-scale industries used to receive aid from the Department of Industries but they receive aid from the Bihar State Small Industries Corporation, Ltd. since 1st February, 1962. Prior to this Industries Department had sanctioned for the establishment of an Industrial Estate in almost all the district headquarters. As a result of this sanctioned order an Industrial Estate has been established in the district of Darbhanga. It is situated to the south-east of Darbhanga Railway Station within the vicinity of Darbhanga town.

The construction work of the building of the Industrial Estate, Darbhanga, was started in the year 1957 and was completed by the end of the year 1958. During the first phase (1958) of construction of the building twenty units were completed and during the second phase (1962) thirty-two more units were completed at a total cost of Rs. 8,25,913.20 only.

The construction in the first phase have been allotted to different entrepreneurs under Government Schemes. During the second phase three units have already been allotted to a private industrialist and will start functioning within a month. The rest will be allotted very soon to different Government and private entrepreneurs. The units of the first phase are functioning except one Messrs. North Bihar Ferro Fabricators. One other unit which was engaged in producing sports goods is on the verge of transfer to the Industrial Estate, Patna.

The following new industrial units have been established at the Industrial Estate, Darbhanga :—

GOVERNMENT FOOTWEAR FACTORY

This unit was given start on the 28th October, 1959. Till January, 1962, this unit was treated as training-*cum* production centre but since February, 1962, its training function has been closed and it is now simply a production centre.

It is equipped with almost all machinery required for the production of footwear. The capital invested over this unit is as follows :—

			Rs.
Total cost of machines and equipments.	..	..	81,532.44
Working capital ..	..	..	53,000.00
Total	..	..	1,34,532.44

At present there are 28 skilled labourers, six technical staff, etc., engaged in the footwear production.

Raw materials especially sole leathers are supplied by the Government Small Tannery, Sakri in the district and Government Small Tannery, Bihta (Patna). Chrome and calf leather, etc., are supplied by Bata Shoe Co., Mokameh and also from different places like Madras, Calcutta, Bombay, Agra, Patna, etc.

The finished goods are marketed throughout the State and supplied to different Government departments, viz., Police Department, Excise Department, Rajya Transport, Gram Panchayats for Village Volunteer Forces, Sindri Fertilisers, Indian Explosives, Limited, Gomia, etc., and outside the State to Ambala Cantt. There is one emporium at Bihar Cottage Industries, Patna, where the finished goods are sent for storage and sale either on retail prices or supplied to different Government Departments or private parties. If they are not sold they are returned to the unit at Darbhanga.

Government Saw Mill and Mechanised Carpentry Unit, Industrial Estate, Darbhanga.—The scheme was sanctioned by the Government in 1957 and started functioning from 11th July, 1959. It is a commercial scheme and is meant to encourage local artisans to utilise the services of the unit and to change their method to bring down the cost of expenditure on production. This unit is equipped with all the machinery required for the manufacture of furniture.

The capital invested over the machines and equipments is Rs. 95,000.00 only and its working capital is Rs. 25,000 only.

The labourers are given daily wages, i.e., a skilled labourer is paid Rs. 4 per day, semi-skilled Rs. 3 per day and unskilled between Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 1.75.

The source of raw materials is the district itself, i.e., *shisham*, mango and *jamun* wood are purchased from Darbhanga proper and neighbouring villages and *sal* wood are supplied from Jaynagar in Darbhanga district and Sitamarhi in the district of Muzaffarpur.

The furniture are prepared both on orders and for retail sale. They are generally supplied to the local hospital and local Government offices.

Model Blacksmithy Training-cum-*Production Centre, Industrial Estate, Darbhanga.*—This unit was started on the 15th August, 1960. It has been established to train the local artisans. The training course is of one year and the main trades are blacksmithy, fitting, turning and welding.

Asha Engineering Works, Industrial Estate, Darbhanga.—This unit was started on the 28th April, 1961. The unit was started for manufacturing of improved agricultural implements to meet the pressing demand of the district as well as keeping in view the Third Five-Year Plan in which top priority has been given to agriculture. This is the only unit which is functioning in the district which manufactures modern agricultural implements. Most of the processes are carried on with the help of manual labour as the unit is not a fully mechanised one. The workshop has yet to develop to be a useful unit.

This unit is a registered partnership (no. 384 of 1960) firm, having two partners, namely, Shri Devendra Narain Jha and Shri Gopi Krishna Kojriwal.

The table given below shows yearwise capacity and production of different items from 1961-62 to 1962-63 (till 30th April 1962) :—

Year.	Designer.		Fabricators, wire nails and panel pins.		Agricultural implements.		Hospital equipments.	
	Capacity.	Production.	Capacity.	Production.	Capacity.	Production.	Capacity.	Production.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1961-62	90,000	10,000	Nil	Nil	1,00,000	12,000	Nil	Nil
1962-63 (till 30th April, 1962).	90,000	3,000	Nil	Nil	10,000	3,500	Nil	Nil

There was no production of fabricators, wire nails and panel pins due to the defective supply of machines by the Department. The firm is on correspondence with the same Department as well as with the supplying firm. Again there was no production of hospital equipments as no orders for the same were placed either by the Government or hospital authorities.

So far the agricultural implements are concerned there had been very poor progress in the last twelve months due to the following reasons :—

(i) There is a Government subsidy on the sale of agricultural implements. The cultivators are getting implements on 50 per cent less of the cost price from the Agriculture Department, Government of Bihar. Consequently, the firm is facing acute difficulty in organising the direct

sale to the cultivators. Therefore, the production depends on the orders of a purchasing department.

There will be no direct sale so long this Government subsidy exists in the market.

(*ii*) There is difficulty in obtaining the raw materials. The firm is meeting the demands by purchasing the materials from open market.

(*iii*) There is the difficulty of getting skilled labourers as the unit has been started in the area which is still under-developed. Hence the skilled labourers have to be brought either from Calcutta or Patna.

In this section the firm manufactures the following implements:—

The Bihar Senior and Junior Plough, Improved Mould Board (Senior and Junior), Improved Cultivators, Japanese Weeder, Wheel Hoe, etc.

As regards the manufacture of designer section, it has to be mentioned here that it solely depends on orders placed by both the Government and private parties. As such there had been low production in the absence of heavy demand. But it is now increasing every month which is evident from the statement given below. There had been no production in the month of May, 1961 whereas in May, 1962 there had been production worth nearly Rs. 3,000 only.

In the Designer Section the following items are manufactured :—

Window grills of different designs,

Collapsible gates and iron shutters,

Steel chairs and tables of different designs, etc.

Since the required raw materials are not timely available from the Government, purchases are generally made in the open market of Patna and Calcutta.

There are labourers both on permanent basis who are on monthly pay and a few of the labourers are employed on daily wages. The following statement shows the wages paid to the different labourers:—

	Rs. per month.
Skilled labourer (Mistry senior)	125.00
Skilled labourer, junior	110.00
Semi-skilled labourer, senior	85.00
Semi-skilled labourer, junior	65.00
	Rs. per day.
Unskilled labourer	1.75 and 1.50

Agricultural implements manufactured till now are piled up in the godown due to the non-availability of market. It has to depend on the Government orders. As regards the orders from the private parties the firm is getting good response but the firm cannot bank on such orders as they are in small quantity.

North Bihar Industries Corporation, Industrial Estate, Darbhanga.—This unit was started in the month of January, 1961. The unit was started for the manufacture of buckets, pipes, camphor tablets and agricultural implements in the district. There is pressing demand of buckets in the local markets. Prior to this the buckets were supplied from Calcutta which were sold at a higher rate. Since the inception of this unit the buckets on a cheaper rates are available in the local markets of the district.

The cutting of the iron sheets, moulding, repeating, joining wiring and gulvanizing, all are done here. Most of the processes are carried on with the help of manual labour as the unit is not fully mechanised one. The number of labourers will increase with the increase in production. As regards the manufacture of agricultural implements, there has been very low production in the beginning (1961).

The table below gives the yearwise capacity and production of different items from January, 1961 to March, 1962 :—

Year	Bucket		Pipe		Agricultural implements		Camphor	
	Capacity	Production	Capacity	Production	Capacity	Production	Capacity	Production
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Dozens	Dozens	Rft.*	Rft.*	Pieces	Pieces	Lbs.	Lbs.
1961 (January to December).	36,000	Nil	1,00,000	Nil	8,000	128	7,920	85
1962 January to March).	36,000	1,782	1,00,000	Nil	8,000	Nil	7,920	Nil

The low production of the items given in the above table is due to the non-availability of the raw materials. It can run in full swing if the Government supplies the raw materials like camphor powder, zinc, steel sheets, copper, brass, wire, etc., in time. The only source for procuring the raw materials is Government permits.

* Rft.—Running feet.

The following is the list of the wages paid daily to the labourers of cadre—permanent and temporary:—

	Rs. per day.
Skilled labourer	3.00
Unskilled labourer	1.62 and 1.00

The manufactured goods are marketed throughout the district and the districts of Saran, Muzaffarpur, Champaran, etc. Outside the State it has got market in Uttar Pradesh and Nepal.

Nirman Wood Works, Industrial Estate, Darbhanga.—The unit was established on the 18th May 1960 and it is equipped with all the modern wood working machines required for the manufacture of furniture, small wooden articles such as toys, table lamps wooden clogs, etc. Wooden clog is the main product of this unit and it has got good business in the local markets. This is a Government aided concern.

The table below shows the annual capacity and production from 1960-61 to 1962-63 (till 30th April, 1962):—

Year.	Capacity.	Production.
	Rs.	Rs.
1960-61	4,000	Nil
1961-62	4,000	3,800
1962-63 (till 30th April, 1962) ..	4,000	Nil

The source of raw material such as *shisham* and mango wood is the local market, Darbhanga and *sal* wood is procured from Nepal.

The Government is the only purchaser of the manufactured goods.

Kejriwal Enterprises, Industrial Estate, Darbhanga.—This private unit was established on the 7th February, 1960. This unit was sanctioned for the manufacture of castor oil but due to the non-availability of castor seeds and low supply of electricity the unit is producing linseed oil and linseed cakes only. This unit is fully equipped with modern crushing expellers and filtration.

The main sources of raw material are the local markets at Darbhanga, Jhanjharpur, Madhubani, Samastipur, etc., and the surrounding villages such as Shahpur, Kansi Simri, etc.

M. D. Lal and Sons, Industrial Estate, Darbhanga.—This private unit was established on the 1st of April, 1962. This unit is not a

fully mechanised one. Most of the processes are done with the manual labour. This unit has been started for the manufacture of sodium silicate and soap. It is managed by the proprietor himself who has an another factory at Madhubani. The labour strength of the unit is 7 to 9 labourers per shift. When the factory is in running order it works for 24 hours. There are 2 regular staff and 5 casual. The capital invested over the unit is Rs. 50,000 (Government Hire Purchase Loan).

The table below shows the capacity and production in rupees from 1959—1962 :—

Year.	Capacity.	Production.
	Rs.	Rs.
1959	3,24,000	23,780
1960	3,24,000	41,730
1961	3,24,000	22,000
1962	3,24,000	Not available.

The main source of the raw material is the Government permits but in the absence of these permits raw materials are procured from the open market. The manufactured goods are marketed at Darbhanga, Madhubani, Assam, Calcutta, Nepal, etc.

Hanuman Metal Works, Industrial Estate, Darbhanga.—This unit was established in the year 1960. This is a private unit and has occupied one shed where aluminium utensils are being manufactured. Machines have been installed for the manufacture of brass and stainless steel as well. This unit will be given another shed very soon. Usually six workers are employed per day. The raw materials such as coal, copper and zinc are being allotted by the Department. Allotment of aluminium and stainless steel sheets are needed for which correspondence is going on with the Department (1962). The figures for the capacity of production were not available. The production figures for first quarter of the year 1961 was worth Rs. 6,000. The goods are marketed at Darbhanga, Jaynagar, Jhanjharpur, Madhubani, Nirmali, etc.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

Lac Bangles.

The main centres of this cottage industry are Madhubani, Darbhanga, Laheriasarai, Samastipur and other big villages like Sariso, Pandaul, Pandasari, Mangrauni, Saurath, etc. Lac is brought from Ranchi and the finished products have a sale beyond the district as well. The equipment and capital of a small family does not exceed Rs. 100.

The State Government have been trying to bring the workers under co-operative fold. Two Co-operative Societies, Darbhanga Laheri Industrial co-operative Society and Kirhar Laheri Industrial Co-operative Society with a share capital of Rs. 900 and Rs. 840 and 45 and 24 members respectively have been formed.

Mat and Sikki Industry

The district produces suitable grass and other reeds for the preparation of mats and reed products (*Sikki*). This cottage industry is mainly concentrated in the Madhubani Subdivision with Rajnagar, Phulparas, Pandaul and Nirmali as the chief centres. Dealers advance money to the workers and the produce is taken by them and retailed to places within the State and beyond. Uttar Pradesh and Calcutta have a demand for them. Various kinds of artistic reed toys, baskets and other household goods are made.

There are four industrial co-operative societies functioning in the district. They are Kapsia Mat-making Co-operative Society. Bahrohan *Chatai* Industrial Co-operative Society, Dokahar *Chatai* Industrial Co-operative Society and Madhubani-Subhankarpur *Chatai* Industrial Co-operative Society. They have share capitals of Rs. 240, Rs. 790, Rs. 510 and Rs. 500 with 24, 68, 51 and 50 members respectively.

Musical instruments

The making of musical instruments is a cottage industry of the district. Samastipur is the chief centre for the manufacture of harmoniums and flutes. The raw materials are obtained from outside and the finished goods are disposed of in the local markets. There are also a few harmonium, *tabla*, *dholak* and *mridang* repair and manufacture establishments at Darbhanga, Laheriasarai, Madhubani, etc.

Pottery and Toy-making

Pottery is a cottage industry scattered throughout the district. Various kinds of earthen vessels in common household use are made.

Pots for plants, various kinds of clay toys, earthen lamps, earthen plates, tumblers and small cups are in great demand and the potters have a busy time.

Given ideas they could probably turn out artistic articles for export. The earthen images of deities made for the various *pujas* are quite artistic and can compare well with the images made at Kumartoli of Calcutta which have a great reputation.

Khadi and Village Industries

The main *khadi* and village industries of the district are *khadi* cloth, leather and tanning works, oil *ghani*, hand-pounding of rice, palm gur, bee-keeping and *gur khandsari*. The manufacture of *khaki* cloth, leather and tanning works have already been discussed. There are three main centres, Hansa, Madhubani and Waini (Pusa Road) which manufacture oil *ghanis*, *charkhas*, *Amber charkhas*, iron accessories.

Village Oil Industry or Oil Ghani

There are 61 Oilmen's Co-operative Societies, nine other Industrial Co-operative Societies and five registered institutions in the district which are engaged in village oil *ghani*. There are 1,135 artisans and 300 non-artisan members of the Oil *Ghani* Co-operative Societies. The paid-up share capital of the societies is Rs. 52,851, working capital Rs. 1,29,680. A sum of Rs. 1,40,213 as loan and Rs. 24,300 as grant have been advanced in the district to different Oil *Ghani* Co-operative Societies from 1957-58 to 1961-62.

At present (1962) there are 266 improved *ghanies* and 330 registered traditional *ghanies* working in the district.

Hand-pounding of Rice

There are at present (1962) 89 Co-operative Societies for hand-pounding of rice and registered institutions in the district, in which 60 are already working ; 29 have recently been affiliated and are not functioning at all. There are 1,640 permanent artisans and 1,000 part-time labourers. The scheme is not much of a success as hand-pounded rice is more expensive. Previously rebates on the fees for hand-pounding used to be allowed to private persons if they got their own rice hand-pounded through these societies. This has been stopped

Palm Gur

There are at present (1962) sixteen Palm *Gur* Co-operative Societies and two registred institutions functioning in the district. The total paid-up share capital of all the 16 Co-operative Societies is Rs. 7,617. A sum of Rs. 6,552.50 and Rs. 6,840 have been advanced to them as loan and grant respectively. There are 461 members of these societies.

The statement below shows the production of the Palm *Gur* since 1959-60 to 1961-62 :—

Year	Production in maunds
1959-60 (October—March)	375
1960-61 ..	313
1961-62 ..	172

Figure of production for the year 1961-62 comes down because the authority of the Excise Department did not issue licence to manufacture Palm *Gur* to the Co-operative Societies concerned. The scheme has not been very successful and the people are not taking to Palm *Gur* enthusiastically.

Gur Khandsari.

This industry is mainly concentrated in the Madhubani Sub-division. There are six Co-operative Societies with 288 members functioning in the district. The paid-up share capital is Rs. 3,295 with an annual turnover of Rs. 3,664.

Bee-keeping.

In the middle of 1960 an attempt was made to start five sub-stations, *viz.*, Darbhanga, Pandaul, Madhubani, Pusa and Rusera in the district, under the Bee-keeping Area Office of the *khadi* and village industries section at Darbhanga.

The sub-stations were started in suitable areas after proper survey to introduce the modern method of bee-keeping.

By the end of 1961, three more sub-stations, *viz.*, Rajnagar, Kansi and Dalsingsarai were established. For the first five sub-stations Rs. 5,500 only had been given as grant for 1960-61 and figures for 1961-62 were not available. For the second three sub-stations Rs. 4,580 only has been given as grant for 1961-62.

Statement showing the year, colonies at the beginning, etc., for bee-keeping from 1960-61 to 1962-63 (April to May, 1962).

Year.	Colonies at the beginning.	Colonies captured.	Colonies deserted.	Colonies at the end of the month.	Production of honey in lbs.	Total production in lbs.	Number of bee-keepers.	Number of villages covered.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1960-61 (July-March).	86	59	21	124	49	49	69	30
1961-62 ..	156	92	12	236	325	109	150	68
1962-63 .. (April-May, 1962)	316	41	20	337	478	1,183	181	79

Jail Industries.

The goods produced at the District Jail, Darbhanga have a heavy demand throughout the district. Since 1955 the Jail industry is developing far and wide.

The District Jail, Darbhanga, manufactures prisoners' garment, *durries*, *newar*, *aasni*, *janewaz*, oil, etc. The most important among these are oil, *durries* and *newar*.

The oil manufactured here is consumed within the premises of the jail, sold to the Government staff, public and is also supplied to Madhubani and Samastipur sub-jails. The oil-cakes are supplied to Agriculture Department, Darbhanga, sold to the public and part consumed within the jail premises. The mustard seed, the main raw material for oil, is purchased through the contractors and the main machineries applied for crushing are oil *ghani* and oil extractors.

Newar and *durries* are sold to the general public at the jail gate. *Newar* is also supplied to the Central Jail, Buxar for making tents. Due to the small jail premises and the small number of prisoners the jail is not able to meet the full demand of the district itself. The raw materials for *newar*, *durrie* and prisoners' garments are obtained from the Buxar Central Jail.

Approximately 30 to 40 prisoners are engaged in the industries section of the jail. The only incentive is the award of special remissions to the prisoners by the Superintendent of Jail and the Inspector-General of Prisons, Bihar.

The figures below show the annual outturn of the Jail industries in the district from 1957 to 1961 :—

Year.		Annual outturn.
		Rs.
1957	..	12,776.84
1958	..	22,568.53
1959	..	25,125.93
1960	..	28,518.98
1961	..	31,136.16

INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL AND PLANS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

Darbhanga is essentially an agricultural district and is an unimportant district so far as industries other than sugar and jute mills are concerned.

The district has several handicaps. The district is served by meter gauge railway communication and it is in 1962 that a fringe of the district, a small section from Barauni to Samastipur was given broad gauge lines. Along with the other districts of North Bihar Darbhanga was a great sufferer for supply of essential commodities till a railway-*cum*-road bridge was built on river Ganga connecting Mokameh in Patna district with Barauni in

Monghyr district. This bridge was thrown open in 1959 and North Bihar has been brought nearer to South Bihar. It is only after the opening of this bridge "Rajendra Pul" that Darbhanga, the headquarters of this district is accessible by road from Patna the capital of the State. Even now (late 1962) a portion of the road about 15 miles in length falling within Monghyr and Darbhanga districts is only fair weather road. This section is more jeepable and heavily laden public carrier trucks have made this section of the road much worse.

The railway system in most parts of North Bihar including Darbhanga is a gift of a terrible famine in the 8th decade of the 19th century. The bad condition of the roadways and the want of railways made supply of foodgrains very difficult and the incidence of casualty was great. Even after the railways were opened the railway facilities were very poor. In spite of a very heavy passenger and goods traffic the condition of the rolling stock for both was very poor and the number of the trains both passenger and goods was extremely small. There has not been much improvement even now. Travelling to Darbhanga from Patna, a distance which can be covered by 25 minutes by air used to take near about 12 to 14 hours by train till Mokameh-Barauni section was connected by Mokameh bridge. Even now it takes about 9 hours by both train and car respectively to reach Darbhanga town from Patna.

North Bihar has no coal, cement or steel products. Power available till very recent years was extremely inadequate and the Sugar Mills and the jute mill had to depend on their own small power generating units. With all these circumstances it is only natural that Darbhanga has continued an agricultural economy.

Conditions have somewhat changed recently as indicated earlier. Along with the railways the roadways have been extended and strengthened. The previous bottleneck of transport of coal, cement and steel goods has been somewhat removed. The proximity of Nepal and the rich trade potential between Nepal and India could now be better exploited. There are a number of grain markets on the border of this district. The agricultural and other natural products of the district along with produce from elsewhere could now be thought of as the base for industries.

The imbalance in the production and distribution of power in North Bihar has been sought to be met in the Five-Year Plans. It is a notorious fact that North Bihar with about a third population consumed less than 1 per cent of the total energy while the district of Dhanbad with about 2 per cent of the population was responsible for about 65 per cent of the total consum tion. The addition to the existing capacity at D. V. C. Bokaro Power Station besides a thermal plant at Barauni in North Bihar is expected to go some way towards meeting the imbalance in North Bihar.

Electrical energy in the State will be utilised mostly by steel and cement industries, coal and iron-ore mines, coal washeries and for the electrification of railways. Even if these units are not located in North Bihar the impact will be to the benefit of North Bihar of which Darbhanga is an important unit. The Kosi Project may not be very helpful so far as power is concerned because Nepal's demand has to be met. Bihar is committed to an intensified programme for extension of power and circumstances are bound to improve in Darbhanga district. It is also expected that there would be better and more railway facilities afforded. It is a pity that it is difficult to broaden the roadways without an enormous expenditure but the existing roadways have been improved and are capable of further improvement.

The European planters had developed saltpetre and indigo industries in the district. It is they who had introduced machines and had attempted to nationalis these industries to a certain extent. For various reasons both saltpetre and indigo had a natural death. Sugarcane came in and a series of sugar mills throughout North Bihar were set up and there are five of them in Darbhanga district. European capitalists and the Darbhanga Raj had pioneered the sugar mills in this district. But the sugar mills have remained essentially as sugar producing units and the huge quantity of bagasse used to be thrown out. Various kinds of grass and reeds that grow abundant in the district were never fully utilised as a very little quantity of it was utilised for making baskets and mats. Two paper mills in private sector are in the offing (1962) and will utilise the bagasse, natural reeds, paddy straws, etc., for making paper. They will also import bagasse and *subai* grass from elsewhere. Molasses in the sugar mills were considerable almost a waste product and used to be sold either very cheap or thrown away.

The Techno-Economic Survey of Bihar* has observed, "Molasses is a by-product of the sugar industry The estimated output is 1,39,000 tons annually. Of the present supply of molasses only 50 per cent is being utilised for the production of alcohol. Though alcohol could be put to a large variety of use in the chemical field, it is at present being used in Bihar only for mixing with gasoline. The future demand for alcohol will also increase. The demand for power alcohol is steadily increasing and with the projected petroleum refinery at Barauni and also increased chemical activity, the demand will further increase.

"A plant of the size of one million gallons per year could, therefore, be profitably set up. The capital investment would be about Rs. 25 lakhs, and the foreign exchange component Rs. 10 lakhs. This unit should be located where the molasses will be easily

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*Conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, 1959, Volume I, page 112.

available and the final product alcohol could be readily sent to Barauni and also to places where the alcohol could be further processed. Samastipur could possibly be such a site. The plant could provide employment for 85 persons."

The Techno-Economic Survey of Bihar* has further observed, "An adjunct to the sugar industry would be the utilisation of sugar for processing into pharmaceutical products, mainly sorbitol, ascorbic acid and riboflavin. All these items are at present being imported. There are plans for the manufacture of ascorbic acid and riboflavin from imported sorbitol. It is profitable to set up an integrated unit for manufacture of sorbitol from sugar and its further processing into ascorbic acid and riboflavin. The investment for a plant manufacturing about 5 tons per month of ascorbic acid will be about Rs. 39 lakhs of which Rs. 24 lakhs will be the foreign exchange component. This plant could be operated as a unit of the sugar mills in North Bihar. The project would provide employment for 100 presons. Darbhanga is a possible site."

The abundant natural supply of fish within the district had never been thought of as the base for any industry. The rich availability of paddy and timber in Nepal led to a mere handful of small rice and saw mills on the border of Darbhanga district. The abundance of the prized Malda mango of Darbhanga district has not been utilised as a base for canning industry.

The industrial potential of the district has not yet been properly surveyed not to speak of exploitation. A beginning is, however, made and the State has been trying to sponsor more small industries in the public sector. A beginning has been made by the starting of an Industrial Estate in Darbhanga town and encourage centres to develop existing cottage industries like tanning, mat-making, silk products, etc. The State has also liberally helped a milk product concern at Madhepur but the industrial potential for large-scale industries appears to have been left more to the private sector.

There appears to be some possibility for a well equipped engineering workshop which will manufacture agricultural machinery, parts of the machinery of Sugar and Jute mills, railway wagons, etc., and could have an assembling unit. There is also possibility of setting up a well equipped plant to utilise the molasses for preparation of alcohol. A bone crushing mill is also possible as quite a large quantity of bone is sent out from the district. It may be examined if there is sufficient availability of hides for starting a large tannery. At present (1962) there is no large-scale tannery anywhere in North Bihar. There may also be the possibility of starting a large and well equipped unit for treatment of

*Conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, 1959, Volume I, page 111.

timber and its utilisation on the borders of Nepal. Cold storages could probably be a good investment and help the potato growers. The industrial potential for starting a large-scale fruit canning industry may be investigated. In 1962 there was a lavishly bumper crop of mangoes and large-sized Malda variety mangoes were sold for three rupees to a hundred. A canning industry would have been very helpful to maintain the balance of economy. Darbhanga district consumes a large percentage of the district produce of fish but the bulk is exported. With the broad gauge line connecting Samastipur to Calcutta more fish from Rusera and Darbhanga would be exported to Calcutta and other places. Small fish is not exported and is internally consumed at a cheaper price. The possibility of drying and selling particular species of small fish has not yet been looked into. There is some demand for dried and salted fish in portions of West Bengal and Chotanagpur. The utilisation of small fish for manure might be developed into an industry if economically sound In the recent years a large number of cream separator has been distributed in this district because milk is abundant in certain areas. It is unfortunate that the *ghee* industry is on the decline. The resources for starting a butter and cheese factory may also be looked into particularly because this district used to export a large quantity of *ghee* and other milk products.

The State is committed to give assistance to industry, large, small and cottage through the Industries Department. The Bihar State Aid to Industries Act, 1956 provides for (*a*) a loan ; (*b*) guarantee of cash credit, overdraft or fixed advance with a bank ; (*c*) taking of shares or debentures ; (*d*) guarantee of minimum return on the whole or part of the capital of a joint-stock company ; (*e*) grant of favourable terms of land, raw materials or other property vested in the State ; (*f*) payment of subsidy for (*i*) establishment or expansion of small-scale industry and (*ii*) the conduct of research ; (*g*) supply of machinery on hire-purchase system ; and (*h*) supply of electrical energy at concession rates. State aid in the forms specified above is not to exceed in amount or value of Rs. 50,000 in respect of any one firm. Generally loans are granted to cottage and small-scale industries. Subsidies are granted up to 50 per cent of the cost of establishment, running, expansion or development in the case of small-scale industry and up to 50 per cent of the cost of research or purchase of machinery in the case of any other industry. Better conditions are available to co-perative societies and persons trained in particular trade at Government cost.

The Government of Bihar has also purchased shares worth Rs. 5 lakhs in the Milk Products of India and shares worth Rs. 40 lakhs in Bihar State Financial Corporation.

The Bihar State Financial Corporation was incorporated in 1954 to meet the requirements for long-term finance to small-scale

industry. There are also various other schemes for assistance by way of providing technical assistance. These facilities are calculated to encourage industrial exploitation of the natural resources of the district.

Labour and Employer's Organisations

Trade Union movement was sponsored in this district just prior to the World War II and the workers in the Sugar Mills pioneered the movement. The workers of the Jute Mill at Muktapur also organised themselves later and followed the workers in the Sugar Mills in placing their grievances before the management in a united manner.

A large number of Labour Organisations are now registered under the Indian Trades Union Act passed in 1926. Many of the Labour Unions are affiliated to different political parties, namely, Indian National Trade Union Congress, United Trade Union Congress, Hind Mazdoor Sangh, All-India Trade Union Congress and Praja Socialist Party, etc. It may be generally said that I. N. T. U. C. is allied to the Congress Party, H. M. S. to Praja Socialist Party and U. T. U. C. to Forward Block. Recently the Communist Party has also been in the field.

Industrial disputes and the grievances of the labour are generally put forth through the Labour Unions. Normally there are good relations and mutual understanding with the management. The Unions have been able to get a good number of settlements in a peaceful manner. The labour and the industrial tribunals are also there for deciding such industrial disputes that cannot be settled mutually.

Besides the workers in the Sugar Mills and the Jute Mills there are Labour Organisations of the Electric Supply Company Workers, Press Workers, Fishermen, Municipal Employees, Cinema Employees, District Board Employees, Workers of the Rice and Oil Mills, etc.

The employers are not well organised although some of the bigger employers are members of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce with headquarters in Patna. There is one Employers' Union—the Darbhanga Employers' Association—registered under Societies Registration Act and functioning since 1959-60 with about 100 members representing the different types of wholesale and retail dealers and some other industrialists. In case of any difference or dispute with the employees, the Association gives advice to its members. Recently (1959-60) the Mithila Chamber of Commerce with about 50 members has been organised with headquarters at Darbhanga. Darbhanga Small Industries Association registered in 1960-61 with 80 members represents the employers engaged in small-scale industries.

The economic condition of the labourers and their scale of wages have been discussed in the text on 'Economic Trends'.

WELFARE FACILITIES

The welfare facilities cover arrangements for housing, medical aid, canteen, etc. Educational and recreational facilities are provided in bigger organisations.

Broadly speaking, the housing facilities cover only the needs of a very small percentage of the workers. But it is also a fact that a large percentage of the labourers in the Sugar, Jute, Rice and Oil Mills come from the neighbouring villages. Educational facilities of a very limited standard have been provided in some of the Sugar Mills and the Jute Mills at Muktapur. The five Sugar Mills and the Jute Mills have arrangements for occasional cinema shows, variety entertainments and football matches. The Muktapur Jute Mill has a workers' club with facilities for reading materials and indoor games. There is now a Government Labour Welfare Centre at Muktapur of 'B' type with a Labour Welfare Officer. The Centre has provision for recreational facilities, social education and arrangements to teach sewing, knitting, cutting and embroidery. There is an Assistant Lady Welfare Officer.

Under the State Employees' Insurance Scheme, there is a medical centre at Muktapur. Medical facilities are provided to the workers of the Jute Mill and the Government Electric Power House at Samastipur. The facilities are also extended to the members of their family. Under the Factories Act, 1948, medical facilities are provided in all the five Sugar Mills.

The factory workers are now brought under the State Employees' Insurance Scheme and various benefits are extended. For example, for 56 days in a year they are entitled to almost half of their pay when they are under certified sickness. In cases of tuberculosis and some other diseases, they get extended sickness benefit for one complete year. In case of factory accidents, the sickness benefit is extended to them for as long as they are under treatment.

A Labour Welfare Officer has been appointed in each of the following factories, i.e., the Rameshwar Jute Mills, Limited, Muktapur, Lohat Sugar Factory, Sakri Sugar Factory, Ryam Sugar Factory, Samastipur Central Sugar Factory and New India Sugar Mills at Hasanpur.

CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE.

HISTORY OF INDIGENOUS BANKING IN THE DISTRICT

Regarding indigenous banking in the district, W. W. Hunter in his book, "A Statistical Account of Bengal," Vol. XIII, Tirhut and Champaran, 1877, pages 162-163 has mentioned that accumulation of capital was generally hoarded or lent out on high rates or sometimes invested in manufactures. The savings were sometimes invested in jewels and ornaments, but rather usually put in usury. The rate of interest when articles were given in pawn was 2 pice per rupee per month, while when a movable property was given in security the rate was half the above. When grain was advanced the *rayat* returned what he received with an addition varying from 25 to 30 per cent. Five per cent was considered a fair return for money invested on land. Shop keepers usually combined the professions of money-lending and rice dealing.

The system is still in vogue. The Darbhanga Raj does the money-lending business since decades back. There were some other old families who used to do this business in the district. The more important of them were and are the families of Messrs. Mata Sahay Coudhary, Padma Prasad Agarwal, Nath Mal of Darbhanga, Lakhoo Rout, Satnarain Rout and Rama Krishna Purbay of Madhubani. There are also some old established families in Samastipur, Dalsingsarai and Rusera, that have been in this business since a long time past.

There were many indigo planters in the district. They also used to lend indigo seeds to the cultivators for the cultivation of indigo and for that they did not charge any interest. They also used to help the big *zamindars* of their locality with money at the times of marriages, etc. But they did not charge exorbitant interest. They were mostly concentrated in Samastipur subdivision of the district.

The money-lender used to advance the money needed to the person at a very exorbitant rate of compound interest, compoundable half-yearly. The result was that generally the debtor was unable to repay the principal and the interest and had to part with some of his property in order to satisfy the creditor. Consequently the debtor grew poorer and poorer while the creditor got richer and richer. Ultimately a stage was reached when the debtor lost his property and was compelled to work for his creditor on a pittance.

Sometimes it so happened that cultivators needed bullocks. Big landlords and big cultivators advanced money for the purchase of the bullock which remained the property of the creditor, but was to be maintained and kept in good condition by the cultivator.

The cultivator had to plough the fields of the creditor free of any charge at the right time in preference to his own land.

In times of scarcity the poor used to borrow grain from persons holding surplus stock. The creditor used either to realise at the time of the next harvest 1¼ to 1½ times the quantity of grain lent or to charge the debtor the price of the grain lent at the rate prevailing at the time of lending or at a dearer rate and then realising the price not in cash but in kind at a cheaper rate than that prevailing at the time of harvest. In the latter case the debtor had to pay in kind nearly double the quantity actually borrowed.

There were other methods of borrowing that were and are still extant. They are: (*i*) hand-notes, (*ii*) mortgaging property and (*iii*) *Zarpeshgi* or *sood bharna*. Hand-notes were and are also the means of advancing and taking loans. When the loanee was literate, there was little chance of bungling except that sometimes a loanee in distress had to make out a hand-note for a much larger amount than what he actually received. When the loanee was illiterate he was advanced a loan on giving thumb impression on blank paper which was filled in later on by the creditor and cases of dishonesty on the creditor's part was not uncommon. In the case of mortgage, the land mortgaged continued to be in the possession of the debtor and the interest on the loan was compoundable half-yearly. The amount actually received might be less than that stipulated in the mortgage deed but the debtor had to pay the stipulated capital along with the interest thereon. The debtor was occasionally not in a position of repaying the loan and the property mortgaged eventually passed into the hands of the creditor. The third method, that of *Zarpeshgi* or *sood bharna* is that the land mortgaged immediately passes into the hands of the creditor and the debtor is liable only to pay the principal. In month of any *Jaisth* after the stipulated period, the debtor could repay the amount of *Zarpeshgi* and get back his land. The creditor has the advantage of enjoying the produce of the land till it is redeemed. The profit due to this use of the land by the creditor is taken as the repayment of interest on the loan, hence this system is called *sood bharna* also

A third kind of indebtedness arose due to the paucity of warm clothing like blankets, etc., during the winter months. This is generally taken advantage of the foreigners like *Kabuliwalas* who used to sell woollen and cotton blankets, *chadars* and clothing to the poorer people of the district at exorbitant prices payable in the month of *Baisakh* every year. Some also used to sell assafoetida (*heeng*) in the same way. The usual cry of the *Kabuliwalas* is "*Le heeng udhari Baisakh ke karari*" (take assafoetida on credit repayable in *Baisakh*).

In urban areas where people were not cultivators but were traders and other professionals, the system of lending and borrowing was on a more organised basis. There were regular *gaddies*

of *mahajans* in the district for lending and borrowing and also issuing and cashing *hundis* (bill of exchange). The lendings and borrowings were at a rate of interest which were not as exorbitant as in those of rural areas. Still when the amount of loan was small and was meant for domestic use and not for trade, the rate of interest charged was two annas per rupee per month in the case of unsecured loans and a half to one anna per rupee per month in the case of secured loans, the security being either ornaments or houses. For commercial transactions, there were *gaddies* of important commercial houses at Darbhanga. The following were the better known *gaddies* at Darbhanga, namely, Nathmalji, Haji Abdur Razzaque, Rally Brothers and Ram Lal Sao Budhan Sao. These *gaddies* had their branch *gaddies* in different towns of the country so as to deal with the transaction of big businessmen. It was only the richer section of the people who could deal with these *gaddies*, while the poorer section had to deal with petty lenders at an exorbitant rate of interest.

There was and still is another agency from which loans could be taken. This agency is the *Kabuliwalas*. It is only the low-paid Government servants, school masters and very poor people who cannot hope to get loan from other sources, who take loans from these persons. The rate of interest usually charged by the *Kabuliwalas* is two annas per rupee per month. But these *Kabuliwalas* try their best to realise their interest only on the pay day of every month and avoid taking their principal. If the interest is not paid they even use physical force to realise it. They try their utmost to see that the debtor does not pay the principal so that he may not escape their clutches.

General credit facilities, indebetedness and money-lenders

General credit facilities available in the district comprise the professional money-lenders, agriculturist money-lenders, richer relatives, traders, Co-operatives, ex-landlords, and lastly the State. There may be also some other particular sources of credit facilities which may generally be grouped under the heading of 'others'. There has not been any critical survey as to the incidence of indebtedness, rural and urban in Darbhanga district. Generally it may, however, be said that indebtedness is almost a normal feature in the economy of the average family of the common man. The middle class which forms the back-bone of society is the hardest-hit in the present set-up and a large percentage of it is running into indebtedness. The average normal cultivator of the district, unless he is a big cultivator with some monetary legacy, has also a certain amount of indebtedness. The small cultivators and the agricultural labourer classes of the whole district are also usually indebted to a large extent. The professional classes both in the rural and urban areas present a peculiar picture. Some of them are quite affluent but the average professional class appears

to be almost on the margin. After the abolition of *zamindari*, the ex-landlords who owned extensive *zamindari* were well off as their extensive *bakast* land or private business may not be indebted to any appreciable extent but the class of small *zamindars* have not yet been able to adjust themselves to the changed circumstances and are getting rapidly into indebtedness. The business men, however, have prospered as a class since the Second World War and the average business man is not suffering from any load of crippling indebtedness. Overnight many of them have become rich. The only kind of indebtedness is the professional indebtedness due to trade credit system. The analysis of indebtedness in Monghyr district that has been dealt with in the text on 'Economic Trends' in the revised *District Gazetteer of Monghyr* applies for Darbhanga district as well.

The incidence of indebtedness in Darbhanga district is largely inter-mixed with the questionable conception of social obligations. The expenditure for *janau* (sacred thread ceremony), *mundan*, marriage, *sradh*, etc., usually bring in indebtedness to most of the families. It cannot be said that the family budget of the average man cannot brook any pruning. There is far too much of lopsided expenditure in the average family at the moment. Marriage, other social ceremonies, funeral expenses, litigation, etc., take away much more from the family budget of an ordinary man. The traditional joint family system is also usually taken to be another source of general indebtedness owing to the drones in the family and the accumulated legacy of debt. In the present Welfare State the incidence of taxation has got to go on increasing and there will be more of rise in expenditure over food, clothing, education and medical expenses, etc. The State is bound to impose more and more taxes to provide for the development projects. Unless the structure of the family budget is radically changed and carefully planned there may be more of indebtedness in the district.

The following table which consists of sale or exchange deeds, mortgage deeds and other deeds for the last ten years will be an index to the trends of indebtedness in the district. It has to be remembered that normally there is an allergy to sell lands unless there is any keen need.

Year.	Sale or exchange deeds		Mortgage deeds		Other deeds	
	Total no.	Aggregate value in rupees.	Total no.	Aggregate value in rupees.	Total no.	Aggregate value in rupees.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1951 ..	68,415	2,72,97,730	52,049	1,70,01,637	2,478	34,21,340
1952 ..	71,027	2,96,30,471	26,866	84,65,455	2,358	32,48,957

Year	Sale or exchange deeds		Mortgage deeds		Other deeds	
	Total no.	Aggregate value in rupees.	Total no.	Aggregate value in rupees.	Total no.	Aggregate Value in rupees.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1953 ..	74,027	2,76,04,050	30,150	93,34,346	2,833	46,11 990
1954 ..	65,201	2,41,14,066	24,891	76,95,511	2,039	34,48,620
1955 ..	55,985	1,88,89,231	21,370	59,00,450	1,836	24,79,040
1956 ..	75,885	2,65,62,408	21,146	68,36,609	2,043	28,43,373
1957 ..	86,725	3,21,73,141	25,446	80,50,018	2,030	32,56,937
1958 ..	87 309	3,50,97,396	41,651	1,00,01,323	2,434	41,17,057
1959 ..	91,919	3,54,84,706	32,751	99,94,909	2,399	24,03,170
1960 ..	93,638	3,89,43,847	33,722	1,06,97,228	2,536	27,79,159

Regarding usury it may be said that this has been controlled to some extent by legislation but not totally. It is, however, not correct to think that the recent changes in the legislation and the provision of more credit facilities have their tangible effect on lending. The private money-lender hardly shows any sign of disappearing. In the district of Darbhanga, the modern banking organisation has not yet percolated to the rural areas. The money-lenders have been occupying a pivotal position in the structure of the rural and urban finance.

But the second quarter of the twentieth century saw the promulgation of certain Acts like Usurious Loans Act, Money-lenders Act, etc., which tried to assuage the miserable situation of the debtors as a whole.

The Government of Bihar passed the Bihar Money-lenders Act in 1938 to protect the farmers from the clutches of the village *mahajans*. By this Act the money-lender is required to get himself registered and obtain a license for carrying on his business. He is also required to maintain regular accounts in respect of each loan transaction showing the outstanding amount of principal and interest and the amount of every payment received from the debtor. The usual penalty for failure to keep accounts is the loss of interest and even of the costs of suits for the recovery of arrears. The entry of fictitious amount in excess of the actual amount of loan has been declared to be a punishable offence. The Act has fixed the rate of interest as follows :—

	Secured loan.	Unsecured loan.
Single interest ..	9 per cent per annum.	12 per cent per annum.
Compound interest ..	Prohibited ..	Prohibited.

The rate of interest has now been legally fixed at a reasonable level and naturally differs in the case of secured and unsecured loans. The money-lenders have to maintain a systematic account of the debts given and the accounts thereof. In spite of all this the money-lenders are doing their business in the district and realising exorbitant rate of interest by underhand means from needy people. There are reasons to believe that there are still unregistered money-lenders. The number of registered money-lenders is also on the increase. The table below will show the annual statement on the working of the Bihar Money-lenders Act, for the district of Darbhanga from the years 1953-54 to 1960-61 :—

Number of Licensed Money-lenders

Year	At the beginning of the year.		Who were registered for the first time druing the year.		Whose licenses were renewed during the year.	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1953-54 ..	716	1,937	73	205	26	62
1954-55 ..	777	2,063	59	190	32	61
1955-56 ..	775	1,895	46	220	36	82
1956-57 ..	764	1,927	59	220	29	99
1957-58 .	716	1,885	91	248	27	59
1958-59 ..	773	1,783	83	286	45	96
1959-60 ..	795	1,828	70	262	31	98
1960-61 ..	803	1,958	183	326	30	99

Money-Lenders.

Whose licenses were cancelled during the year.		Whose five year term of licenses expired during the year.		At the close of the year.	
Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
8	9	10	11	12	13
..	..	46	133	769	2,071
..	..	93	419	775	1,895
..	..	93	270	765	1,927
..	..	165	332	687	1,914
..	..	90	221	744	1,971
..	..	111	236	795	1,826
..	..	63	285	833	1,928
..	..	60	240	886	2,143

*Besides the Maharaja of Darbhanga the following families carried on money-lending business of Rs. 20,000 and above during the year 1960-61 :—

Name of families	Places where business were carried on	Amount of business (in rupees)
1. Sirichand Sahu, S/o Shankar Sahu ..	Darbhanga town .	25,000
2. Jagdish Narain Sahu, S/o B. Parmeshwar Lal Sahu.	Ditto ..	20,000
3. Ananth Lal Pajiar Suya Narain Pajiar ..	Ditto ..	30,000
4. Mrs. Manorma Singh, W/o Baldeo Pd. Singh.	(1) Ditto .. (2) Laheriasarai. (3) Jamui (Monghyr).	1,00,000
5. Sukhdeo Mahto, S/o Soni Lal Mahto ..	Darbhanga Town ..	25,000
6. Raghunath Kharga, S/o Dunilal Kharga	Ditto ..	25,000
7. Ram Lakhan Mahto, S/o Harihar Mahto	Laheriasarai	25,000
8. Marhat Rai, S/o Ram Keshwar Rai ..	Darbhanga district ..	50,000
9. Sita Ram Kheriya Lala Ram Girdhari ..	Darbhanga town ..	1,00,000
10. Bhagwan Das Daruka, S/o Chuni Lal Daruka.	Ditto ..	30,000
11. Kanhai Lal Biswas, S/o B. K. Biswas ..	Ditto ..	29,990
12. Dr. Radha Krishna Shaw, S/o late Ramdhari Ram.	(1) Darbhanga town .. (2) Madhubani.	1,00,000
13. Sheo Narain Jha, S/o late Janak Jha	(1) Darbhanga town .. (2) Bahera, P.-S.	60,000
14. Vinaya Krishna Pd., S/o Padmanath Pd.	Darbhanga town ..	5,00,000
15. Padnath Pd., S/o late B. Ram Pd. ..	Ditto ..	5,00,000
16. Shyam Bahadur Pd., S/o B. Mahadeo Pd.	Ditto ..	25,000
17. Budhan Chaudhury, S/o late Krit Chaudhury.	Ditto ..	20,000
18. Ashrafi Mahaseth, S/o B. Tribhuwan Mahaseth.	(1) Darbhanga town .. (2) Laheriasarai.	2,00,000
19. Tara Shankar Pd., S/o late Ram Chandra Pd.	Laheriasarai ..	2,00,000
20. Narain Pd. Daruka B. Thanmal ..	(1) Darbhanga town .. (2) Janakpur Road (Muzaffarpur).	50,000
21. Shrimati Durga Devi, W/o B. Bhagwan Das Daruka.	Darbhanga town ..	80,000

*The statement has been compiled from data given by the District Sub-Registrar, Darbhanga (P. C. R. C.).

Name of families	Places where business were carried on	Amount of business (in rupees)
22. Jadu Nandan Singh, S/o Ram Autar Singh.	Darbhanga town ..	1,00,000
23. Shrimati Dipti Majumdar, S/o Sri Satendra Majumdar.	Laheriasarai town ..	30,000
24. Gobind Pd. Chaudhury, S/o Dwarka Pd. Chaudhury.	(1) Darbhanga town .. (2) Bara Chakia, P.-S Pipra (Motihari).	1,00,000
25. Lakshmi Narain Kando, S/o Ghanshayam Das Kando.	Darbhanga town ..	1,00,000
26. M/s. Madan Lal Shayamsundar Singh ..	Ditto ..	25,000

Besides these private agencies for lending, the Government also lend to the cultivators as *taccavi* and other loans and there are Co-operative Societies which also lend money to cultivators. The proportion of borrowing from the different agencies to the total borrowings of cultivators is calculated to be as follows :—

Credit Agency.	Proportion of borrowing from each agency to the total borrowings of cultivation.
Government	3.3 per cent.
Co-operative	3.1 ,, ,,
Relatives	14.2 ,, ,,
Agriculturist money-lenders ..	24.9 ,, ,,
Professional money-lenders ..	44.8 ,, ,,
Traders and Commission Agents ..	5.6 ,, ,,
Landlords	1.5 ,, ,,
Commercial Banks	0.9 ,, ,,
Others	1.8 ,, ,,
Total ..	100.0 ,, ,,

Joint stock Companies and

There are no joint stock companies registered under the Indian Companies As regards private and public limited companies, the details are as

List of Private Limited Companies in the

Name of company.	Date of regis-tration.	Principal object.	Class of share.	Capital. Authorised in rupees (total only).	Capital. Paid-up in rupees (break-up).
1	2	3	4	5	6
Khand Ghoshala Society, Private, Limited.	21-3-55	Management of Go-shala and animal husbandry.	Oridinary Preference.	1,00,000	49,880 50,000 99,880
Darbhanga Dairy Farms, Private, Limited.	29-10-57	Ditto ..	Equity ..	10,00,000	2,24,900
Thakur Ram Ganga Prasad, Private, Ltd.	31-7-50	Business of rice and oil milling.	Ordinary ..	15,00,000	3,40,000
Birendra and Birendra, Private, Limited.	18-12-58	Business of steel matters.	Equity ..	5,00,000	5,00,000
Mithila Match Manufacturing, Private Ltd.	13-1-47	Match manufacturing industries.	Equity	5,00,000	80,750
Hindusthan Printers and Traders, Private, Limited.	10-12-46	Business of printing and publishing.	Equity	1,00,000	93,775
Darbhanga Press Co., Private, Ltd.	17-11-48	Ditto ..	Ordinary ..	5,00,000	4,75,000
The Maithili Prakashan, Private, Ltd.	18-10-58	Business of publishers, printers, book binding, etc.	Equity ..	2,00,000	7,734
Darbhanga Construction and Wood Works, Private, Ltd.	29-10-57	Construction of roads, bridges, culverts, dams in structural engineering.	Equity ..	10,00,000	2,50,000
Prasad & Sons, Private, Ltd.	21-8-31	Wholesale dealers, commodities, other than food stuff like the General Merchants and Commission Agents, etc.	Equity ..	1,00,000	2,350

Limited Companies.

Act in Darbhanga district except a few limited companies (private and public), follows :—

District of Darbhanga for 1960-61.

Bonus issue included in column 6.	Secured loans, unsecured loans and debentures in rupees.	Situation of registered office.	Profit before taxation loss.	Reserve in rupees (excluding taxation reserve).	Closing date of Annual Accounts from which date in columns 10 and 11 have been taken.	Industrial classification.
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Nil	Secured—40,000	Moh. Champanagar, P. O. Darbhanga, District Darbhanga.	Nil	Nil	31-12-1959	0.20
Nil	Nil ..	Darbhanga, District Darbhanga.	Nil	Nil	31-12-1959	0.20
Nil	Secured—1,67,965 Unsecured—1,19,125	Darbhanga ..	Nil	1,777.57	31-12-1959	2.00
Nil	Secured—2,50,000	Samastipur, District Darbhanga.	Nil	Nil	31-12-1959	3.0
Nil	Secured—8,200 .. Unsecured—64,121	Donar, Darbhanga, District Darbhanga.	Nil	Nil	31-12-1959	3.85
Nil	Nil	Santi Niketan, Darbhanga, District Darbhanga.	Nil	Nil	31-12-1959	4.8
Nil	Unsecured—21,832	Darbhanga, District Darbhanga.	Nil	Nil	31-12-1959	4.8
Nil	Nil ..	Lachmi Sagar, Darbhanga, District Darbhanga.	Nil	Nil	30-9-1959	4.8
Nil	Nil ..	Darbhanga, District Darbhanga.	Nil	837.03	31-12-1959	5.01
Nil	Unsecured—51,645	Santi Niketan, At & P. O. Darbhanga.	Nil	Nil	31-3-1959	6.01

Name of Company.	Date of Registration.	Principal object.	Class of share.	Capital. Authorised in rupees (total only).	Capital. Paid-up in rupees (break up).
1	2	3	4	5	6
Darbhanga Dayalbagh Stores, Private, Ltd.	13-1-40	Wholesale dealers, commodities, other than food stuff like the General Merchants and Commission Agent, etc.	Equity ..	2,000	16,000
International Trading Corporation, Private, Limited.	20-3-1941	Ditto	Equity ..	20,000	1,110
The New National Industries, Private, Limited.	17-4-1956	Ditto	Equity ..	1,00,000	..
Darbhanga Industries, Private, Limited.	22-10-1951 / 16-6-1959	Wholesale Trade in Commodities other than food stuff.	Equity ..	25,00,000	68,250
Darbhanga Properties, Private, Limited.	29-10-1957	Business in Land and Estates and Zamindars companies.	Equity ..	50,00,000	3,00,400
Rameshrey Nagar Udyoga Kendra, Private, Ltd.	2-1-1961	Ditto	Equity ..	10,00,000	..
Darbhanga Investment, Private, Limited.	29-10-1957	Investments and Trust Co.	Ordinary ..	1,00,00,000	17,50,400
Darbhanga Cold Storage, Private, Limited.	29-10-1957	Storage and Warehousing including Cold Storage.	Equity ..	15,00,000	3,60,600
Darbhanga Engineering Works, Private, Limited.	29-10-1957	Advertisement Contractors and Advisors.	Equity ..	10,00,000	2,26,500
Mithila Talkies, Private, Limited.	8-5-1959	Motion Picture Producers, Exhibitors and Distributors.	Equity ..	5,00,000	1,000
Darbhanga Sugar Co., Limited.	13-3-1941	Manufacture of Milk and Dairy Products, sugar and other allied products.	Equity ..	30,00,000	26,00,000
The Rameshwar Jute Mills, Limited.	22-11-1948	Business of Spinning, Weaving etc.	Ordinary Preference.	50,00,000	20,00,000 7,00,000 27,00,000
Thakur Paper Mills, Lmited.	20-7-1954 / 25-11-1960	Manufacture of Paper and Paper Products.	Equity ..	1,00,00,000	3,00,000
Darbhanga Trading Co., Limited.	7-2-1907	Traders in Commodities other than food stuff and General Merchants.	Equity ..	20,000	20,000
The Darbhanga Laheriasarai Electric Supply Co., Limited.	17-1-1938	Business of Electric Supply.	Equity ..	15,00,000	6,84,980

Bonus issue included in Col. 6.	Secured loans secured loans and Debentures in rupees.		Situation Registered office.	Profit before Taxation on Loss.	Reserve in rupees (excluding Taxation Reserve).	Closing date of Annual Accounts from which date in Coloums 10 and 11 have been taken.	Industrial classification.
7	8		9	10	11	12	13
Nil	Nil		Satsang Bhawan, Patnopatti, District Darbhanga.	Nil	Nil	30-6-1960	6.01
Nil	Nil		Shanti Niketan, At & P.O. Darbhanga.	Nil	Nil	31-3-1959	6.01
Nil	Nil		Nanpatnagar, District Darbhanga.	Nil	Nil	31-8 1958	6.01
Nil	Nil		Darbhanga, District Darbhanga.	Nil	1,225	31-12-1959 Transferred from West Bengal.	6.01
Nil	Nil		P. O. Darbhanga, District Darbhanga.	Nil	3,805	31-2-1960	6.2
Nil	Nil		Rameshrey Nagar, Dalsingsarai, P. O. & District Darbhanga.	Nil	Nil	Not available	6.2
Nil	Nil		P. O. & District Darbhanga.	Nil	43,378	31-2-1959	6.52
Nil	Nil		Darbhanga, District Darbhanga.	..	33,912.99	31-2-1959	7.5
Nil	Nil		Maharaja's Office, Darbhanga, District Darbhanga.	Nil	Nil	31-2-1959	8.5
Nil	Unsecured	1,950	Kotwali Chowk, Darbhanga, District Darbhanga.	Nil	Nil	31-2-1959	9.00
Nil	Secured ..	23,46,194	P. O. Lohat, District Darbhanga.	5,50,000	32,36,102	31-3-1959	2.21
Nil	Secured .. Unsecured	16,44,228 1,174	Muktapur, P. O. Samastipur, District Darbhanga.	45,142	10,324	31-3 1960	2.64
Nil	..		Samastipur, District Darbhanga.	252	2,002	31-12-1959	4.70
Nil			Gudlowara, Darbhanga, District Darbhanga.	619.12	39,156	10-10-1959	6.01
Nil	Unsecured	6,22,405	Pandasarai Road, Darbhanga, District Darbhanga.	6,039	4,911	31-3-1960	5.1

Banks.—The statement below shows the banking offices in Darbhanga District other than the Co-operative Banks in 1962.

Name of places	Name of Banks having offices	Nature of offices
Laheriasarai ..	1. State Bank of India ..	Branch office.
	2. Central Bank of India, Ltd.	Pay office.
	3. Bank of Bihar, Ltd. ..	Branch office.
Darbhanga ..	1. State Bank of India ..	Pay office.
	2. Central Bank of India, Ltd.	Branch office.
	3. Punjab National Bank, Ltd.	Branch office.
	4. United Bank of India, Ltd.	Branch office.
Samastipur ..	1. State Bank of India ..	Branch office.
	2. Central Bank of India, Ltd.	Sub-branch office.
Madhubani ..	1. State Bank of India ..	Branch office.
Jaynagar ..	1. State Bank of India ..	Pay office.
	2. Punjab National Bank, Ltd.	Pay office.
	3. Central Bank of India, Ltd.	Pay office.
Sakri ..	1. State Bank of India ..	Pay office.
Dalsingsarai ..	1. State Bank of India. ..	Pay office.

There are only two banks other than the State Bank of India, viz., Central Bank of India, Ltd. and Punjab National Bank, Ltd., have pay offices at Jaynagar. The State Bank of India has pay offices at Darbhanga, Jaynagar, Sakri and Dalsingsarai. The Central Bank of India, Ltd. has a pay office at Laheriasarai also. The abovementioned statement shows the location of both the branch offices and pay offices of the banks which are functioning in the district.

About two and half decades back the Darbhanga branch of a very flourishing bank known as Das Bank, Ltd. had failed along with the branches elsewhere. The branches of a number of other banks in the district had met with a similar fate between 1940—50.

They were the branches of Calcutta City Bank, Ltd., Nawadip Bank, Ltd. and Hazardi Bank, Ltd. Due to the failure of the banks in the district, the faith of the common man in the banks had received a rude shock and some people having good savings are still averse to put their money in the banks.

The branch offices of the different banks were established in the district as follows:—

Central Bank of India, Ltd. (1948), Punjab National Bank. Ltd. (1948), United Bank of India, Ltd. (1945), Bank of Bihar, Ltd. (1935), State Bank of India (1955) at Laheriasarai, in 1958 at Madhubani and in 1959 at Samastipur.

These banks as usual collect the savings of the public, give loans in reasonable security and undertake the other monetary transactions which are usually done in a bank such as acting as the agent of the customers in collecting and paying cheques, bills and dividents, etc. Many of the banks act as the custodians of the valuable documents and jewellery of the customers and issue various forms of easily negotiable credit instruments. The rules of the banks differ. One bank may be allergic to give advances against perishable goods while another bank may undertake to do so. The banks of Darbhanga district are now getting popular and through them a big turn-over of business is done, because the district specially Samastipur subdivision grows cash crops. *Hundi* business is still continuing and is generally confined to foodgrains and cloth, and some of the banks still purchase clean *Hundis* from parties considered reliable. The banks maintain godowns where goods pledged are stocked and advances are given.

The Darbhanga branch of the State Bank of India, the Bankers' bank is a continuation of the branch of the old Imperial Bank which was opened in 1926. The branch of the State Bank of India which took over the branch of the Imperial Bank was established in 1955. All the branches of this bank in the district undertake all commercial banking transactions as agents of the Reserve Bank of India, conduct the Government cash work, provide remittance facilities to banks, extend exchange and remittance facilities to the public and pay, receive, collect and remit money and securities on Government account, etc.

Co-operative Credit Societies and banks.—Before the adoption of the recommendations of the Rural Credit Survey Committee,* the

*The Rural Credit Survey Committee functioned between 1951-52. The fresh recommendations were adopted in 1953 and others in the following years.

Co-operative Movement was treated merely as a non-official movement although Government sponsored and little Governmental assistance was given. The departmental officers had only the power to inspect the societies and to suggest remedies for improvement. But after the adoption of the recommendations of the Rural Credit Survey Committee in the year 1958, the Co-operative Movement took a different form. Government began to give aid in the shape of contribution of share capital in the primary and apex institution and also managerial assistance. Since then the number of societies, their membership and share capital have shown a marked increase as is evident from the following figures for the year at the advent of First, Second and Third Five-Year Plans.

Year	Kinds of Societies	No. of Societies.	Membership.	Share-Capital.
1	2	3	4	5
				Rs.
1951 ..	1. Multipurpose Co-operative Societies	732	24,202	1,52,179
	2. Cane Growers' Co-operative Societies	839	27,893	73,349
	3. Industrial Co-operative Societies ..	23	2,941	36,035
	4. Other Co-operative Societies ..	33	4,211	53,596
	Total	1,627	59,247	3,15,150
1956 ..	1. Multipurpose Co-operative Societies	1,029	36,090	2,97,372
	2. Cane Growers' Co-operative Societies	1,197	46,074	1,70,250
	3. Industrial Co-operative Societies ..	152	24,992	1,69,844
	4. Other Co-operative Societies ..	60	4,844	71,872
	Total	2,438	1,12,000	7,09,338
1961 ..	1. Multipurpose Co-operative Societies	1,564	91,752	7,15,488
	2. Cane Growers' Co-operative Societies	1,591	63,054	2,88,320
	3. Industrial Co-operative Societies ..	601	38,806	4,26,071
	4. Other Co-operative Societies ..	87	2,750	1,71,671
	Total	3,843	1,96,762	16,01,988

There are 3,009* villages in this district out of which 1,814 villages have been brought under co-operative fold and 1,195 villages are still left to be brought. According to the programme of the Second Five-Year Plan all the villages were to be covered by co-operative societies in the district, but the target could not be achieved due to the fact that favourable atmosphere among the mass for co-operative work could not be created.

The progress of the different types of co-operative societies till 30th June 1961 is indicated below:—

Multipurpose Co-operative Societies.—As mentioned above there are 1,564 Multipurpose and Credit Co-operative Societies in the district out of which 165 are either moribund or defunct and have not borrowed any amount from the Central Co-operative Banks during the last five years. They primarily extend credit facilities to their member mostly with the fund borrowed from the Central Co-operative Banks and also from their own funds to some extent. In addition to credit business 171 Multipurpose Co-operative Societies are running Fair Price shops of Government grains in the district.

(2) *Largesized Multipurpose Co-operative Societies.*—At present there are 15 Largesized Multipurpose Co-operative Societies in the district and no more of such society is to be organised at present. The details of the societies are as follows :—

(1) No. of Largesized Multipurpose Co-operative Societies —15.

(2) No. of members—3,036.

(3) Share Capital—Rs. 1,81,300.

(4) State Partnership Share—Rs. 1,500.

(5) No. of godowns sanctioned—15.

(6) No. of godowns constructed —6.

(7) Business taken up—Fertilisers agency, *arhatia* business fair price shop, consumers' store.

(3) *Canegrowers' Co-operative Society.*—At present there are 10 Co-operative Development and Cane Marketing Unions in the district. The details are as follows:—

(1) No. of Unions—10.

(2) No. of Canegrower's Co-operative Societies affiliated—1,308.

(3) Paid-up Share Capital—Rs. 81,862.

*District Census Handbook, Darbhanga, 1955, p. IV.

(4) *Weavers' Co-operative Societies.*—There are 245 Weavers' Co-operative Societies in the district with the total membership of 17,037 and share capital of Rs. 3,27,918. Out of 245 societies 222 are affiliated to Central Co-operative Banks.

(5) *Industrial Co-operative Societies.*—There are at present 518 Industrial Co-operative Societies of different cottage industries in the district. These societies are formed by the artisans of a particular industry of the area. They are supplied credit by the Industry Department and Bihar State Khadi and Village Industry Board for purchasing raw-materials, accessories and tools, equipments, etc. The following types of Industrial Co-operative Societies are carrying on different activities. The details of these societies are as follows :—

Serial no.	Types of Societies	No. of Societies.	Goods produced and supplied by the Societies.
1	2	3	4
1	Oilmen's Co-operative Societies ..	52	Mustard Oil, Oilcake, etc.
2	*Vishkarma* Co-operative Societies ..	27	Furniture.
3	Leather and Shoe Makers' Co-operative (Industrial) Societies.	24	Tanned leather, shoes, bags, chappals, etc.
4	Baskets' Co-operative Societies ..	5	Baskets.
5	Hand-pounding and Rice Industrial Co-operative Societies.	26	Rice.
6	*Gramudhyog* Co-operative Societies ..	58	Hand-spun and woven cloth, hand-pounding and palm-gur
7	Blacksmithy Industrial Co-operative Societies.	8	Agricultural implements.
8	*Gur Khandsari* Co-operative Societies	12	*Gur*.
9	Soap making Industrial Co-operative Societies.	2	Soap.
10	Siki Industrial Co-operative Societies	4	Siki goods.
11	Milkmen's Co-operative Societies ..	3	Butter, *ghee* and sweets.
12	Sweet Makers' Co-operative Societies	1	Sweets.
13	Palm *gur* Co-operative Societies ..	9	Palm *gur*.
14	Blanket Makers' Co-operative Societies	3	Blankets.
15	*Ayurvedic* Co-operative Societies	1	*Ayurvedic* system of medicine.
16	Ambar Charkha Co-operative Societies	5	Cotton yarns.
17	Other Co-operative Societies ..	190	Miscellaneous.

(6) *Joint Farming Co-operative Societies.*—During the Second Five-Year Plan Co-operative farming was not a regular plan but 14 such societies were organised in the district. During the Third Five-Year Plan the target for this district is 35 for the whole plan period. Till June, 1961 fourteen Joint Farming Co-operative Societies with 263 members and share capital of Rs. 7,909 have been organised. These joint farming co-operative societies are silent ventures and much cannot be said of them at the moment.

Central Co-operative Banks.—The Central Co-operative Banks are the pivot of co-operative banking and credit. All the co-operative societies will be affiliated to these banks for the purpose of supervision, guidance and credit facility. These banks encourage institutional pattern of credit and not extend any credit to individual persons direct. They extend finance only to co-operative institutions which in turn pass on the same to their members. Such Banks were established in the district at Madhubani in 1914, at Laheriasarai in 1919, at Samastipur in 1922 and at Daulatpur in the year 1924.

The following table will indicate the volume of credit facilities extended to the co-operative institutions in the First, Second and Third Five-Year Plans by these banks.—

Year	Amount of loan advanced	Total demand	Total collection	Percentage of collection to demand
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Per cent.
1951	5,61,902	6,32,040	2,98,382	47
1956..	13,56,961	26,18,746	12,03,170	45
1961..	16,56,704	30,11,661	17,53.906	60

Financing by these banks is restricted to short term and medium term loans for agricultural purposes only. Short term loans are advanced to agriculturist members to meet their current production needs such as seeds, manures, etc. These loans are made available to them at short notice and are repaid within nine to twelve months and in exceptional cases like cultivation of sugarcane within fifteen months. Medium term loans are advanced for purchase of livestock, agricultural implements, etc., for a period of three to five years. The rate of interest on all kinds of loans was 6¼

per cent per annum from the ultimate borrower i.e. the cultivators but from January, 1961 it has been raised to 7½ per cent. Loans are advanced on the security of landed properties of the members but such securities are not required for loans below Rs. 200.00. Personal securities are taken in all cases. Loans are also available from Co-operative Societies to its non-agriculturist members, such as artisans up to Rs. 100.00 as working capital. In every exceptional case loans up to and exceeding Rs. 1,000.00 are advanced on the prior approval of the Circle Assistant Registrar. Long term financing is being done by Land Mortgage Co-operative Bank which has a District Branch at Laheriasarai.

The Bihar State Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank, Ltd.—As discussed above a branch of the Bihar State Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank, Ltd. has been started in the year 1960 under the Second Five-Year Plan and it started functioning from 7th November 1960. The main object of the branch is to finance long term loans to its members on the security of immovable properties for the redemption of old dues, i.e., for redemption of loans borrowed on mortgage of lands or other immovable properties for the improvement of lands and purchase of lands for consolidation of holdings for more economic and scientific cultivation.

It advances loans to its members for long terms which may be for 15 to 20 years. Repayment of loans is required to be made in annual equal instalments. A member may get an advance of a sum 20 times of his paid-up share capital in the Bank. The maximum, however, is Rs. 10,000 per member. Since its inception up to 31st August, 1961 the progress of the branch is as follows:—

(1) Membership—351,

(2) Share Capital—Rs. 9,075.00

(3) No. of loan applications received—7 (all are under the process disposed).

(4) Amount of loan applied for —Rs. 34,295.

General and Life Insurance.—Life Insurance is one of the important items of individual's contractual saving. The characteristics of a contractual saving is that the individual concerned agrees either voluntarily or by obligation of service terms to make regular payments to a fund over a period of time, subject to the condition that he would be paid back the amount remitted by him together with or without interest and profits at a later date. The time of repayment, the mode and other details are also usually prescribed in rules and regulations governing the fund. In the case of Life Insurance the nature of the responsibility which a company assumes for the individual concerned depends upon the conditions under which the policy has been issued by the company or the authority that does this business. A Life Insurance policy

contemplates insurance against one's life or against a specific contingency and premiums are paid by the insured over a particular period at an expiry of which the company or the authority discharges its legal obligation to the insured.

Before the Life Insurance Corporation was formed in 1956, there were agents of almost all the big Life Insurance Companies like Oriental, New Asiatic, Industrial and Prudential, General Assurance, Palladium, Lakshmi, Bharat, Free India, United India, Empire, Western India, Bombay Life, Bombay Mutual, National, National India, New India, Hindustan Co-operative, Metropolitan, etc., working in the district of Darbhanga. Besides these, there was one office of the Hindustan Co-operative in the town of Darbhanga in the charge of an Assistant Branch Manager.

The statistics of Life Insurance business done by the Companies before 1956 are not available. It may, however, be observed that certain Life Insurance Companies were doing excellent business while a few others were confined to very limited business. It may be noted that none of the Life Insurance Companies mentioned above had their managing directorship in Bihar. On the other hand it may be mentioned that one or two Life Insurance Companies sponsored in Bihar had faded out shortly after their inception and had meant a considerable loss of money to a number of investors. The Insurance Companies of British origin had a higher rate of premium but were considered to be more reliable.

These companies worked through a chain of agents. The agents were, however, more confined to the urban areas. The services given by the agents were extremely good and the companies invariably issued a notice of payment due to the insured. As the Insurance Companies merged into Life Insurance Corporation formed in 1956 the insured persons did not have to lose anything.

With the nationalisation of Life Insurance business, the Life Insurance Corporation of India became the largest single agency doing Life Insurance business in India. The Corporation was constituted under the Life Insurance Corporation Act of 1956 and was officially established on 1st September 1956 by the Government of India.

From 1st September 1956, all Indian Life Insurance and Provident Societies as also all foreign Life Insurance Companies ceased to carry on Life Insurance business in India and their Indian business in this line were taken over by Life Insurance Corporation. The security of policy money is guaranteed by the Central Government and hence the security of the common man is assured.

However, General Insurance, which includes fire, marine accident, theft, burglary and other insurance business has been left open to the concerns in the private sector. Most of the former insurance companies and societies which used to transact all insurance business including life, have now switched over entirely to general insurance business. Purely life insurance companies have been closed down.

Under the organisational set up of the corporation, the Darbhanga Branch of the Life Insurance Corporation was started on the 1st September, 1956. This branch has been placed under the territorial jurisdiction of the Division of Muzaffarpur in the Eastern zone. The corporation has only one branch office in the district of Darbhanga with a Developmental centre at Madhubani, and there is a sub-office at Samastipur. The Samastipur sub-office was started in 1958 and the Madhubani Development Centre in 1960. The Samastipur sub-office has been functioning as a Branch office directly under the Muzaffarpur Division. There is an Assistant Branch Manager (Development) at Darbhanga in charge of the office. The Madhubani Development Centre is under Darbhanga Branch, but there is an Assistant Branch Manager (Development) who looks after the said centre. There are 20 Field Officers in the Darbhanga Branch out of which 11 are directly under the Branch and 9 are under the Madhubani Development centre. Out of 11 Field Officers put under the Branch direct, 7 are posted at Darbhanga, 1 at Kamtaul, 2 at Bahera and 1 at Biraul. Out of the 9 Field Officers placed under the Development Centre 2 are posted at Madhubani, 1 at Benipatti, 1 at Jaynagar, 1 at Jhanjharpur, 1 at Nirmali (Saharsa district), 1 at Pandaul, 1 at Phulparas and 1 at Khotauna. There are 9 Field Officers in the Samastipur sub-office of which 4 are posted at Samastipur, 1 at Rosera, 1 at Dalsingsarai, 1 at Mohiuddinnagar, 1 at Singhia and 1 at Ujiarpur. The Field Officers, who have a specified area in their charge, work through appointed agents who are distributed over the villages in their area. These village agents work on commission basis calculated on the premiums paid on policies.

The Branch office as well as the Sub-office collects proposals along with the first premium instalments either in full or in part and then these proposals are sent to Muzaffarpur Divisional Office for decision in respect of acceptance or otherwise of the proposals. The acceptance advices are sent by the Divisional office with copies to the respective agents, Field Officers and the Branch or sub-office as the case may be. Then the respective Branch and sub-office collect the balance of the first premium and make adjustments and issue official receipts to the policy holders. In case the full first premium is realised along with the proposal, the adjustments are made directly by the Divisional office who also issues the receipts and the policies to the parties.

In Darbhanga district, life insurance business has been expanding rapidly which is shown by the figures given below from the year 1956 to 1960.—

Year	Proposal introduced		Proposal completed	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
		Rs.		Rs.
1956 (from 1st September 1956 to 31st December, 1956).	631	23,22,000	279	10,16,000
1957..	3,212	1,41,86,350	2,715	1,24,16,850
1958	3,588	1,52,97,250	2,962	1,25,93,750
1959..	3,813	1,59,90,000	3,215	1,31,72,250
1960..	4,950	2,16,53,950	4,479	1,93,31,400

The reasons for the rapid increase in Life Insurance work are;—

(1) Reduction in premium rates by rupee 1 on the whole.

(2) Sense of complete confidence in Life Insurance Corporation due to the guarantee by Government for the policies. This was lacking in the case of private companies.

(3) Spreading of network of offices in almost every Subdivision with ramification in villages.

(4) Stress on rural Insurance. Private Companies neglected rural areas, but the Life Insurance Corporation has extended its operations to rural areas. The result is that the rural people are fast becoming Insurance minded.

So far as General Insurance is concerned which includes the insurance of godowns, money in transit, goods in transit, fidelity guarantee, personal accident, fire etc., the incidence is not so high in this district. General Insurance can be divided into three categories—(1) Miscellaneous accidents in which motor cars, trucks, buses, taxis, motor cycles, burglary, etc., are included, (2) Fire including riot risks, floods lightening, etc., usually covering properties, houses, godowns, workshops, factories, etc. and (3) Marine accidents due to which goods may not arrive intact whilst in transit from one centre to another. Motor cars and trucks are insured compulsorily against third party risks. Owners of new cars and some owners of old cars take comprehensive policies with private insurers and subsidiaries of the Life Insurance Corporation of India

There are three subsidiaries of Life Insurance Corporation of India, viz., "Oriental Fire" "National Fire" and "Asiatic Government Security". The Oriental Fire, National Fire and Asiatic Government Security have merged into one Company which is known as Oriental Fire and General Insurance. Companies like New India General, Hindusthan General, Ruby, United India Fire and General, Hercules, Home, Caledonian, etc., also are doing business in the district.

The Oriental Fire and General Insurance Company does general insurance business through about 50 agents, and a paid Inspector is posted at Darbhanga. This district is looked after directly by their Divisional Office at Patna where there is a Divisional Secretary. Other General Insurance Companies have their agents and inspectors in the district.

The work that is being done for General Insurance cannot be said to be adequate. As a rule godowns of the merchants are not insured against burglary or fire. Consignments of big valuations are often sent without any insurance. So far as households are concerned very few houseowners take out a policy for fire or destructions through other agencies. Household effects are seldom insured against theft or fire. Excepting the third party risk insurance for a motor car which is statutory obligation there is not a regular practice to take out insurance policies for valuable possessions.

Savings in the District

With the expansion of Life Insurance in rural areas in recent years the rural population also of the district is getting insurance minded and thus the number of insured persons is increasing. These insured persons are compelled to pay regular premiums which compels them to save regularly.

As for those who are not engaged in any trade, profession or commerce but are only small cultivators or are agricultural labourers and who form the bulk of the population of the district, are not in a position to save anything substantial for their incomes fall far below their requirements and are thus normally in debt. As for the big cultivators of the districts, they are the only persons in rural areas who can save something but their social obligations like sacred thread ceremony, marriages, *sradhs*, etc., take away most of their earnings. They are, however, in a position to save to some extent which they generally spend in ornaments or advancing loans to needy persons. The second alternative yields them a better income than any of the saving scheme hitherto provided.

Samastipur subdivision gorws cash crops like chillies, tobacco and sugarcane and the cultivators there are in a position to save

a good amount. Due to the nature of the soil and lay of the land, Madhubani and Sadar subdivision do not grow cash crops and are thus handicapped.

During the Second World War and the period immediately following it the weaver class in the rural areas of Madhubani subdivision are better off than the cultivators and other artisans of the district, for due to scarcity of cloth their manufactures specially *kokti* products brought high prices as compared with other cloths and could squander money as they liked. An example of it may be cited here. They used to play the game of kites with ten rupee notes attached to each kite and were proud to declare that they had lost so many kites with the notes. There is a story that some of them have even burnt one-rupee note for preparing tea and proclaiming this as a creditable performance. But later on the price of their products declined with the availability of mill products and change in fashion and they are now hard hit by competition, in spite of the strenuous efforts of the Khadi Board. It has become very difficult for them to save anything these days.

In urban areas the earning population consists of service holders under the government, local bodies, firms or traders and artisans. The Government servants except holders of class 1 posts live from hand to mouth and are always in debt unless they have lands or other sources of earning. Similar is the case with the employees of local bodies except sweepers, in whose case each and every member of the family of the age of more than 12 years is an earning member, and can if they so desire save a lot, but they do not do so. They usually squander away their money in drinks and fineries. The condition of the lawyers and doctors is unenviable for with the establishment of *gram panchayats* the lawyers have lost most of their income and the doctors due to the development of blocks have lost their private practice. It is only the big traders and merchants who have the capacity to save and they do save but employ their savings in furtherance of their trade and business.

The district has more or less a closed agricultural economy and the margin of saving is naturally small. With the spiral rise in the price of essential commodities one has to pay much more now for food, cloth, foot-wear, medicines, education, etc. The standard of life being raised comforts have become a part of our life and even the man on marginal living sees a picture occasionally. This should be taken as a happy sign but all this means lesser savings.

But in spite of the lesser opportunities for saving, facilities have *to be provided for some saving being banked for the future.* This may be in shape of buying gold or subscribing to the provident fund or buying a life insurance policy or going in for purchase of saving certificates or security bonds. The more complex our living

becomes and the lesser chances of savings there is the more reason for keeping by some money for future.

Provident fund

Under the scheme of provident fund, permanent employees under local bodies, private educational institutions and factories of certain categories are compelled to contribute to this fund. The contribution by the employee generally amounts to 12½ per cent of the salary, the employer also contributing an equal amount towards the fund. The contribution is compulsory so that it is a kind of compulsory saving by the employee which is augmented by contribution by the employer. This fund is further augmented by the accumulation of interest paid by the bank in which it is deposited.

The employee is entitled to both his contribution and the employers, contribution together with interest thereon, provided he retires after the completion of the minimum period of service prescribed under the rules that may be in force. In any case he is always entitled to receive at the end of his service at least his own contribution and interests thereon. Holders of pensionable Government posts are allowed to contribute to the provident fund but the employer, viz., Government does not contribute anything towards it. The employee contributes a certain percentage of the salary.

The contributor is entitled to take loan from the provident fund on occasions provided in the rules. The loan so taken has to be repaid by the contributor in a number of equal instalments.

The employees of Muktapur Jute Mills of this district drawing less than Rs. 500 a month have to contribute 12½ per cent of their salaries. The employer also contributes an equal amount. Sugar Mills have no provident funds, because they employ mainly seasonal workers.

Small Savings

Small savings of the average man of limited means have a great role to play in the economy of the district, and, besides the banks who willingly accept small deposits, the Post Offices have savings departments and the accent is on extending such facilities to more and more of the rural Post Offices.

One noteworthy feature of Darbhanga District is that it has two Head Post Offices instead of one. One of these Head Post Offices, is, as usual, situated at Laheriasarai (Darbhanga) the District headquarters and the other is at the Subdivisional headquarters at Samastipur. Samastipur Head Post Office controls the

Post Offices in that Subdivision while the Laheriasarai Head Post Office controls all Post Offices not only in Sadar Subdivision but also those in the Madhubani Subdivision.

There are 51 Post Offices under the Laheriasarai Head Office doing savings bank work in 1961-62. This includes the Head Office at Laheriasarai and Branch and Sub-Post Offices. The following statement gives the statistics of the amount that remained at the close of the year after deposits were made and withdrawals were taken in Savings Banks.

Year			Rs.
1954-55	..	..	37,84,823.82
1955-56	..	..	54,07,290.35
1956-57	..	..	63,85,324.22
1957-58	..	..	80,68,450.11
1958-59	..	..	32,74,779.09
1959-60	..	..	73,46,756.82
1960-61	..	..	70,86,700.55

There are 35 Post Offices under the Samastipur Head Office doing savings bank work in 1961-62. This includes the Head Office at Samastipur and Branch and Sub-Post Offices. The following statement gives the statistics of the amount that remained at the close of the year after deposits were made and withdrawals were taken in Savings Banks.

Year			Rs.
1954-55	..	..	44,03,254.62
1955-56	..	..	51,06,263.74
1956-57	..	..	16,82,790.15
1957-58	..	..	37,08,779.74
1958-59	..	..	38,02,061.84
1959-60	..	..	50,60,385.70
1960-61	..	..	69,73,218.86

Though the figures quoted above are fluctuating every year yet they have a tendency to increase: still the response of the public has not been very encouraging in the rural areas. This is due to the fact that the incidence of literacy in the average village is low and it is difficult to keep a paper-bound savings bank account book properly in a thatched hut. Prompt disbursals are not always made because sometimes it so happens that the Postal department refuses to make payments to the agent or to the depositor on the ground that the signature of the depositor does not tally or for want of identification. Somehow the average illiterate or semi-literate villager has not got much confidence in the local postal savings bank.

Any citizen who can spare even so small an amount as of Rs. 5.00 can open a Post Office savings bank account at any Post Office which does savings bank work. The maximum limit of investment is Rs. 15,000.00 for an individual and Rs. 30,000.00 for a joint account of two individuals. All local authorities and co-operative societies and non-profit making institutions can also open accounts with these banks which are called public accounts. For opening a public account there are no limits to the size of deposits which can be made.

Interest on individual and joint account is allowed at the rate of 2½ per cent for the first Rs. 10,000.00 and 2 per cent on the balance in excess of Rs. 10,000.00. On public accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent (interest is calculated for each calendar month). The interest earned on these investment is free of income tax and super tax.

National Savings Scheme

The beginning of Government mobilisation of small savings in India could be traced to World War I (1914—18) when the then Government issued Postal Cash Certificates of 5 years, 7 years' and 10 years' duration They were sold at a discount and repaid at par after the completion of the maturity period. They were discontinued a few years after the war.

During World War II (1939—43) the issue of such certificates was again introduced and even after the war they are being continued in a more intensive form because small savings from a large number of people can become a substantial item in the capital resources that are required for carrying out the Nation's Five-Year Plans.

The following categories of investments have been classified as small savings investment since 1957:—

(1) Twelve-year National Plan Savings Certificates issued in denominations of a minimum of Rs. 5.00 and maximum of Rs. 5.000.00 and yielding interest at 5.41 per cent.

(2) Ten year Treasury Savings Deposit Certificates issued in denomination of Rs. 50.00 and Rs. 100.00 and yielding interest at 4 per cent, per annum which is paid every year.

(3) Fifteen-year Annuity Certificates whereby accumulated savings can be invested as a lump sum and received back in monthly instalments for a period of 15 years, the rate of interest being about 4¼ per month compound.

The annual average value of National Savings Certificates issued under Laheriasarai Head Office is Rs. 11,05,856.00 and of those discharged is Rs. 2,60,889.00.

The annual average value of National Savings Certificates issued under Samastipur Head Office is Rs. 2,80,074.00 and of those discharged is Rs. 1,12,672.00.

To induce people to save, Government started on 1st April, 1960, a scheme of 5 years interest-free Prize Bonds eligible for participating in drawings quarterly each year till 31st March, 1965. These bonds are of two denominations, one of Rs. 5 and the other of Rs. 100. The attractive feature of the bonds is that at each draw prizes are available ranging from Rs. 50 to Rs. 7,500 for each five-rupee bond and Rs. 500 to Rs. 25,000 for 100-rupee bonds. The difference between this lottery and other ordinary lotteries is that, while in the latter non-winners lose their money, in the former no loss of money takes place whether a prize is won or not, because the bonds will be repaid in full (of course without interest) on or after the 1st April, 1965.

The total value of Prize bonds issued under both Laheriasarai and Samastipur Head Offices since its introduction, that is from 1st April 1960, are as follows:—

Under Laheriasarai H.O.:—

	Rs.
1960-61	1,18,740.00
1961-62 (up to February)	23,200.00

Under Samastipur H.O :—

1960-61	51,760.00
1961-62 (up to February)	15,995.00

State Assistance to Industrial Development.

With the passing of the Bihar State Aid to Industries Act, 1956, Government has been enabled to grant loans and other help to persons carrying on or intending to start industries within the State. This aid has given a fillip to the growth of small scale and cottage industries in the district of Darbhanga. Besides the traditional industry of spinning and weaving in the rural areas in this district, other industries like tannery, tile making, chemical industry, manufacture of leather, etc., have been started. A list of these industries is given in the table below showing the kinds and number of industries started and, the amount of aid given to them.

NO. OF UNITS ADDED AND AMOUNTS ADVANCED.

Name of Industry.	1956-57.		1957-58.		1958-59.		1959-60.		1960-61.	
	Units.	Amount.	Units.	Amount.	Units.	Amount.	Units.	Amount.	Units.	Amount.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		R..		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
1. Blacksmithy ..	Nil	Nil	4	34,580.00	3	12,345.00	Nil	Nil	1	1,000.00
2. Engineering Works and Products.	..	..	3	5,750.00	5	34,570.00	7	43.323.75	3	1,700.00
3. Wood Works and Products	1	3,000.00	11	52,704.00	13	39,750.00	7	37,178.00	10	14,144.00
4. Food stuffs (includes poultry).	8	20,200.00	8	20,900.00	21	70,575.00	18	28,600.00	13	30,700.00
5. Weaving	..	..	6	15,080.00	..	..	4	25,000.00	1	6,212.95
6. Chemicals & Chemical Products.	..	..	4	4,600.00	10	26,100.00	11	36,000.00	4	24,500.00
7. Brick kilning and Tiles	1	3,000.00	1	10,000.00	3	18,700.00	1	10,000.00	1	7,000.00
8. Leather Products ..	..	..	4	9,100.00	1	1,200.00	10	15,200.00	2	2,000.00
9. Printing Press ..	2	15,000.00	1	9,000.00	..	..	..	..	..	..
10. Tailoring ..	..	..	4	23,211.87	36	13,688.51	191	41,395.59	15	4,617.00
11. Handicrafts (Musicals, Bamboo products, Ivory, Rope, Hat and Calico Printing).	3	6,800.00	9	20.750.00	2	5,450.00	4	5,445.00	4	1,700·00
1. Miscellaneous (Trunk, Utensils, Biri Buttons, etc.).	1	0,500.00	11	26.825,00	11	8,750.00	5	8,783.00	2	2,150.00
TOTAL	16	48,500.00	66	2,32,500.87	105	2,31,128.51	258	2,509,25.34	56	95,723.95

Under the Bihar State Aid to Industries Act, 1956, financial assistance can be given in the following forms:—

(a) grant of loan, (b) grant of subsidy, (c) taking of shares or debentures, (d) guarantee of minimum return on the whole or part of the capital of a joint stock company, (e) grant on favourable terms of land, raw materials or other property vested in the State, (f) supply of machinery on hire purchase terms, (g) supply of electrical energy at concessional rates, (h) guarantee of a cash credit, overdraft or fixed advance with a bank.

To facilitate quick and easy distribution of loans, power to sanction them has been delegated to various authorities. Loans up to Rs. 5,000 for any single industry are sanctioned by the Project Executive Officer of the Community Development Block or the S. D. O. concerned. The sanctioning authority for loans up to Rs. 10,000 is the Collector or the Additional Collector, and for them up to 20,000 in any single case is the Director of Industries, or the Additional Director of Industries. Loans beyond these amounts are sanctioned by Government in the Department of Industries and Co-operation. The interest chargeable on these loans up to Rs. 50,000 is 3 per cent and 5 per cent for any amount beyond this amount. The maximum period of repayment is 10 years and starts after the lapse of two years from the date of the grant of the loan. In the matter of interest special concessions have been allowed to industrial co-operative societies and they pay interest at 2½ per cent only.

Since the passing of this Act an Industrial Estate has been opened in the year 1957 at Darbhanga in an area of 8.25 acres. It has 52 sheds for workshops and gives employment to 141 persons. In them footwear, sports goods, furniture, aluminium utensils, sodium silicate, non-edible oils, buckets, agricultural implements, house fittings, steel chairs, etc., are manufactured. A Government and a Khadi Board tannery at Sakri have been started manufacturing uppers and soles of shoes, suit-cases, etc., since 1957. Mangalore type tiles are manufactured at Government Tile Factory at Sakri since 1957. Calico printing, dyeing, manufacture of Ambar *Charkha* and Yarvada *charkha* are carried on at Madhubani and Pusa. A small acid manufacturing plant manufacturing nitric acid, hydrochloric acid and sulphates has been started at Madhubani. Soaps of different kinds are manufactured at Madhubani and Jaynagar also.

Trade

Regarding trade, W. W. Hunter in his 'A Statistical Account of Bengal, Volume XIII (Tirhut and Champaran), published in 1877 had given more details of the river borne traffic. He had mentioned that from September 1875 the boat registration system had been

established on all the waterways of Bengal and results published monthly in the Statistical Reporter. It appears from the Statistical Reporter (1876) that fuel, fire-wood, fruit, vegetables, pulses, grams, *ghee*, linseed, tobacco and mustard were exported outside the Darbhanga district. It also mentioned that the export of hides was entirely to Patna and from there hides were consigned by the railways to Calcutta for export by sea. It further mentioned that Tirhut trade in hides, which was based on advances made by Muhammadans from Patna, was large and increasing. The export of *ghee* was mostly by rivers to Calcutta and Patna. Timber were brought down from the forests of Nepal *tarai* by river and were exported to Patna and Calcutta.

Trade with Nepal.

From the earliest time a brisk trade had existed between Nepal and the Indian districts on the Nepal border.

Regarding trade with Nepal, W. W. Hunter in his "A Statistical Account of Bengal", Volume XIII (1877) mentioned that the trade was entirely by land, through carts, pack bullocks and occasionally by coolies. The timber was floated down the rivers.

From the tour diaries of the Subdivisional Officers of Madhubani during 1888 to 1890*, it appears that Madhubani Subdivision was an important trade centre in the latter part of the 19th century. There used to be Frontier Trade Registration offices at Madhwapur and at Umgaon. The following commodities were the principal imports from Nepal—salt, cotton, castor, sugar, *gur*, tobacco, *mahua*, *dhan* (paddy), ganja, English cloth, silk, gold, silver, betel-nut, vegetables, country cloth, paper. The principal exports were paddy, rice, linseed, saltpetre, timber, *khesari*, mustard seed, poppy seed, salt, *dal*, etc.

The trade with Nepal was maintained by carts and head loads. In December 1889, the Subdivisional Officer of Madhubani mentioned that he could say with certainty that at least two hundred carts laden with grain passed along one road only through Paduma, Mohulia, etc., from Nepal and that gives an idea of the volume of trade with Nepal.

The Subdivisional Officers have quoted the prices of some of the commodities on the border of India during 1888 to 1890. Some of the prices are given below:—

Rice	..	13 seers per rupee.
Dhan	..	23 seers per rupee.

*An original volume of tour diary of Mr. Greer, I.C.S. and his successor who were Subdivisional Officers of Madhubani from 1888 to 1890 was traced in Madhubani and has been utilised (P.C.R.C.).

Rahar	..	15 seers per rupee.
Marua	..	16 seers per rupee.
Urid	..	13 seers per rupee.
Chura	..	8 seers per rupee.
Potatoes	..	13 seers per rupee.
Mustard	..	12 seers per rupee.
Salt	..	14 seers per rupee.
Oil	...	4 seers per rupee.

Mr. Greer, S. D. O., Madhubani and his successor compiled a report of the import and export of commodities in maunds from Nepal from the documents in the Frontier Trade Registration Offices at Madhwapur and Umgaon. These Registration Offices have been abolished since long. The main function of these Registration Offices was to collect statistics of the trade passing the frontier.

Madhwapur Frontier Registration Office—Imports from Nepal.

	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Cotton	150	15	47
Ganja	5.9	5.5	4.12
Turmeric	224	50	93
Salt	5,877.15	5,552	3,027
Rice	..	..	927
Castor	824	1,100	165
Betelnut	264.20	414	207
Dhan	.	..	3,172
Sugar	636	556	440
Masuri	636	1	..
Wheat	..	..	131
Potatoes	224	630	25
Gur	2,849	2,729	968
Mahua	3,257	3,862	2,073
Gram	..	..	210
Onion	236	45	48
Country thread	40	25	..

	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Makai	..	..	571
Marua	86	..	1,761
Fish	99	168	82
Kerosin oil	..	77	229
Vegetable	250	58	117
Sweet potatoes	138	200	..
Chilli	37	..	25
English thread	2,10	3	..
Pepper	89	10	..
Medicine	85	14	..
Barley	..	..	70
Indigo	34 seers	..	..
Almond	15	..	..
Resin	13	..	..
Date	29	69	..
Zera	32	37	..
Ginger	208	135	..
Goats	113 nos.	107	50
Grinding stone	..	42	..
Pets	26	..	..
English cloth valued	73,804	43,671	31,621
Country cloth valued	7,061	5,290	5,144
Pots	550·50	95	276
Silk valued	3,209	..	..
Gold	600	..	..
Silver	600	2,326	..
Bangles	239	..	..
Cane	22	26	4
Paper	210	275	500

	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Marble	64	..	..
Hemp	..	20	..
Linseed	..	24	..
Exports to Nepal—			
Dhan	57,721	46,046	7,455
Rice	74,897	13,505	19,77[illegible]
Dal	597	505	463
Cotton	64	31	205
Mahua	1,307	..	..
Safi	14	..	103
Saltpetre	1,434	498	739
Ghee	180	217	310
Linseed	10,138	2,849	3,076
Mustard	292	68	..
Poppy seed	614	..	..
Tobacco	145	900	442
Fuel	..	39	..
Khesari	..	157	..
Medicines	16	..	..
Khesari	80	128	166
Makai	52	30	55
Opium	21	33	25
Mustard	151	..	..
Timber	..	125	2,530
Wheat	..	395	..
Goats	..	..	..
Buffaloes	58	36	168
Hides	29	232	421
Oxen	29	..	74

	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Sheep	..	..	45
Ivory	..	135	..
The Frontier Registration Office, Umgaon—Imports from Nepal—			
Sabai grass	195	276	28
Khesari	304	443	474
Rice	1,38,916	1,80,779	35,503
Dhan	22,638	22,382	..
Makai	3,465	4,812	2,152
Saltpetre	368	180	1,138
Linseed	12,096	4,045	4,074
Oilseed	1,320	516	88
Castor oil	412	..	..
Tobacco	796	598	1,347
Buffaloes	599	375	130
Sheep	100	..	14
Hides	309	20	378
Pigs	..	..	41
Exports to Nepal—			
Mahua	336	780	236
Potatoes	716	320	192
Wax	4	..	..
Fish	21	..	15
Salt	1,214	1,515	1,252
Gur	112	..	..
Pigs	230	47	309
Castor oil	..	52	37
Tobacco	..	96	12
Bangles valued	..	200	..
Chillies	..	..	659

	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Marua	..	..	692
Dhan	..	..	590
Urid	..	..	24
Goats	..	..	91
Carpets valued	..	..	275
Turmeric	..	..	659
Brass	..	..	36

So far as the trade with Nepal is concerned there have been great changes since W. W. Hunter and Greer. A railway line from Jayanagar to Janakpur has been established by Nepal Government and goods are carried by the railway from Jayanagar to Nepal in a short time. Jayanagar which is a town in Darbhanga district is situated near the Nepal border.

At present (1962) the chief commodities for export from India to Nepal are manufactured goods, kerosene oil, salt and cotton piece goods, and from Nepal to India are hides, jute and paddy. There is a Nepali railway godown. It was reported by the Station Master that no custom duty is levied either for export or import. The statistics of export and import from India and Nepal of Jayanagar railway godown for three months of 1961 are as follows :—

Average export from Jayanagar to Nepal.

Description of goods.	October to December 1961.		
	October.	November.	December.
	Quintal.	Quintal.	Quintal
1. Kerosene oil	435	1,362	643
2. Cotton piece goods	108	37	33
3. Cotton Twist yarns	..	29	.
4. Salt	200	238	100

Average import from Nepal to Jayanagar.

Description of commodity.	October to December 1961.		
	October.	November.	December.
	Quintal.	Quintal.	Quintal.
1. Rice	320	700	1,300
2. Hides	91	185	95
3. Jute	200	518	464
4. Paddy	N.A.	145	N.A.
5. Oil-cakes	N.A.	148	463

N.A.— Not available.

It is understood that *Tejpata*, potatoes, other grains, wooden articles, etc., are also imported figures of which are not available. Similarly other commodities like medicines, cigarettes, cycle-parts chillies, sugar, turmeric, *makhana*, etc., are exported correct figures of which are not available. It is also understood that non-duty paid *ganja* is smuggled in considerable quantity from Nepal to India.

Regarding general trade, the last District Gazetteer (1907) by L. S. S. O'Malley mentions as follows :—

"The principal exports are rice, indigo, gram, pulses, linseed, mustard seed, saltpetre, tobacco, hides, *ghee* and timber and the imports are rice and other foodgrains, salt, kerosene oil, gunny bags, coal and coke, European cotton piece-goods* and raw cotton. Among exports rice, as a rule, occupies the most prominent position, closely followed by linseed and unmanufactured tobacco. Most of the rice is exported to the United Provinces and the neighbouring districts of Saran, Muzaffarpur, Monghyr and Bhagalpur ; nearly the whole of the linseed is sent to Calcutta ; while the largest importers of the local tobacco are the United Provinces and the other districts of Bihar. The only other articles exported in large quantities are gram and pulse, other foodgrains and unrefined sugar. Calcutta and Burdwan take the largest proportion of gram and pulse ; the foodgrains are nearly all sent to adjoining districts ; and a large proportion of the sugar finds its way to the districts of the Bhagalpur Division. The most important imports are rice, paddy and other foodgrains, which come for the most part from Bhagalpur and Nepal ; coal and coke,

* Now Uttar Pradesh (P. O. R. C.).

which are imported from Manbhum*, Hazaribagh and Burdwan; salt which is brought in from Calcutta; kerosene oil, which is imported from the oil godowns in the 24-parganas; and European piece-goods from Calcutta.

"Most of the trade with the neighbouring districts is rail-borne; but there is a considerable volume of trade between Darbhanga and Nepal, which is carried on by means of carts and pack-bullocks, and to a certain extent by means of coolies. The imports from Nepal consist chiefly of grains, such as rice, paddy, gram, pulse and oil-seeds, and of timber floated down the rivers. The most important exports to that State are European and Indian piece-goods, salt and kerosene oil. Darbhanga accounts for 14.8 per cent of the total trade of the Patna Division, but its commercial life is far from vigorous, and the last quinquennium shows a falling off of four per cent in its trade.

Trade Centres.—"The principal centres of trade are Darbhanga and the outlying subdivisional headquarters Madhubani and Samastipur. Rusera, owing to its position on the Gandak, was at one time the largest market in the south of the district, but has lost much of its former importance since the opening of the railway, though it is still a flourishing bazar. In the north, Narahia in the Phulparas thana is an important centre for the Nepalese grain traffic; and there are a number of big bazars in the same thana where the Nepalese trade changes hands. The other markets in the district are mainly of local importance the largest are Pusa, Kamtaul, Dalsingsarai and Jhanjharpur."**

The development of means of communication that has taken place since O'Malley's time has had a great impact on trade and commerce of the district. The district may now be described to be fairly well connected by rail, road and waterways. The large aerodrome in Darbhanga has also been used for the landing of Freighter planes carrying goods. Samastipur within the district has long been the headquarters of a railway division. Samastipur is now connected by a broad gauge section from Barauni and there are direct trains from Patna to Samastipur by broad guage. It is true that there could possibly be more of passenger and goods trains in certain railway sections of the district. A casual look will indicate that the passenger trains are always overcrowded and an enquiry will indicate that the goods booked are not very quickly cleared from the railway stations. The demand for more and more of railway wagons has gone on increasing. The travelling public has enormously gone up in number. There are now hundreds of passenger

*The then Manbhum district is now Dhanbad district (P.C.R.C.)
** District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907), pp. 94-95.

buses and carrier trucks running within the district and connect the district with other parts of the State and also beyond the State. The traditional bullock-carts have not been eliminated but the number has enormously increased. Trade and commerce through boats has, however, declined. Darbhanga is now directly connected with Nepal both by the railways through Jayanagar and by roads.

The want of a rail-*cum*-road bridge on the Ganga was a great impediment to free and cheap flow of trade and commerce. The Ganga bridge was a necessity for stabilising the economy of the northern areas of Bihar by doing away the bottle-neck on either side of the river. The rail-*cum*-road bridge on the Ganga has now connected Mokameh with Barauni and has become a boon for quicker movement of commodities both by roads and by railways. Any development project in Nepal or North Bihar used to be delayed as heavy goods like cement, iron and steel could not move quickly and cheaply. The agricultural economy of North Bihar of which Darbhanga district is a component had to get a quicker outlet for the export of its produce and also a quicker inlet for imports particularly of such commodities like cement, steel, plants, etc., that could lead to the industrialisation of the district. The country boats with primitive methods of locomotion could offer no solution to the demands of the present times. The closed economy of North Bihar which is almost wholly an agricultural region and had remained comparatively backward, largely, for want of transport and communication facilities has been partially met by the rail-*cum*-road bridge on the Ganga connecting Mokameh with Barauni. The very existence of a large number of fairs in North Bihar quite a number of which are in the Darbhanga district indicate the reaction of an inadequate transport and communication facilities leading to more or less static economic conditions. The rail-*cum*-road bridge at Mokameh bringing Darbhanga district closer to other parts of Bihar will definitely improve the poor marketing conditions and will promote not only the agricultural economy by tearing its closed aspect but also introduce a degree of industrialisation. The colossal loss of time in the pre-rail-*cum*-bridge could well be imagined when it is mentioned that a passenger earlier could only reach Darbhanga from Patna by an arduous railway journey covering nearly 12 hours. Now the railway journey does not take more than 8 hours and almost the same time is taken by a goods-laden truck for covering the road distance from Patna to Darbhanga. Even the roads in North Bihar could not be properly improved on account of scarcity of road construction materials caused by the lack of adequate transhipment facilities across the Ganga. The bridge will also accelerate the growth of urban centres and will have a huge impact on trade and commerce. The principal commercial crops of North Bihar, namely, oil-seeds, sugarcane and jute will have a much better and quicker turn-over because of the bridge. The traffic possibilities will also tremendously increase. The railways and the roadways would now play a

much greater part in developing this important region of the State and would be invaluable if exigencies occur like famine or scarcity or even lawlessness.

Incidentally it may be mentioned that the District Board of Darbhanga had a proposal of running a light railway in 1950 for linking up Sakri railway station on Darbhanga-Jayanagar branch on the north and Hasanpur road on Samastipur-Mansi section on the south. The idea had to be dropped due to non-availability of locomotives and other necessary materials. This earlier proposal gives a sure indication of the necessity and the desire of the people to have a railway line connecting north and south. This area is not well connected with roads and some of the roads are motorable only in the dry season. The area has important places like Supaul *bazar*, Kusheshwarasthan, Mohan Bahera, Lahera, Bangarhatta and Singhia. Supal *bazar* is the centre of the entire area for supplying of necessaries of life and getting its supply from Musaraghat, Begusarai and Khagaria. Kuseshwarasthan attracts thousand of pilgrims from far and near. Mohan Bahera has a population much over five thousands while Lahera, Bangarhatta and Singia are also fairly populated. These facts are particularly mentioned because of its essential closed economy due to want of good communications. There is no industrial population here and there was not much facility for a quicker turn-over of the produce of the area. With the opening of the rail-*cum*-road bridge and the parallel development roads within the district of Darbhanga it is expected that the closed economy of this area will liquidate to some extent and a certain amount of industrialisation will be introduced. The bridge is a landmark the importance of which could only be appreciated with the passage of time.

In the text on communications details about the railways and roadways have been given.

Trading population.

As regards the number of persons employed in commerce, the census report of 1051 mentions that in Darbhanga district, out of a population of 37,69,534 about 29,296 people are engaged in commerce. The bulk of them, i. e., 18,571 are living in rural areas as against 10,725 in urban areas. The table below shows the number of persons engaged in different kinds of commerce.*

Name of business	Number of persons	
	Male	Female
1. Retail trade in foodstuffs	10,172	2,829
2. Retail trade in fuel (including petrol)	551	352
3. Retail trade otherwise unclassified	9,650	2,356
4. Retail trade in textile and leather goods	1 829	269
5. Wholesale trade in foodstuffs	470	53
6. Wholesale trade in commodities other than foodstuffs ..	559	14
7. Money lending, banking and other financial business ..	122	31

*Extract from District Census Handbook, Darbhanga 1951, pages 74 to 77.

There are certain communities who could be almost described as professional traders. Some such communities are the Agrawals, Barnawars, Banias, Surhis and Marwaris. Agrawals are chiefly engaged in Banking, money-lending and trade in gold and jewellery. Marwaris are a well-knit community who have penetrated into large villages as well. They deal in trade and commerce of all types and also indulge in money-lending business. Banias trade in cloth, grains and money-lending.

Article.	Imported from.
Salt	.. Calcutta.
Iron and Steel	.. Tatanagar, Kulti and Calcutta.
Maize	.. Rajasthan, Assam and Naugachia.
Pulse	.. Uttar Pradesh and Assam.
Wheat	.. Punjab.
Oil cakes	.. Kanpur and Agra.
Shoes	.. Kanpur, Agra, Delhi and Calcutta.
Lime	.. Jabalpur.
Kerosene oil and petrol ..	.. Budge Budge.

From where exported.	Name of commodities.	Destination of export.
Dalsingsarai	Chillies ..	Calcutta, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Patna.
Jainagar, Madhubani and Samastipur	Rice ..	Muzaffarpur, Patna and Barauni.
Dalsingsarai and Samastipur ..	Tobacco	Central Provinces, Uttar Pradesh, Monghyr, Patna and Howrah.
Dalsingsarai, Samastipur, Jaynagar ..	Linseed	Calcutta, Kanpur, Basti, Benaras.
Dalsingsarai	Jute ..	Calcutta and Purnea.
Darbhanga, Samastipur	Hides ..	Howrah, Mokameh and Kanpur.
Darbhanga and Madhubani ..	*Makhana*	Patna, Calcutta, Kanpur and Delhi.
Darbhanga, Madhubani, Sakri ..	*Gur* and Sugar.	Patna, Calcutta, Kanpur, Muzaffarpur and Chapra.
Samastipur	Livestock	Calcutta, Purnea.

The movement of the commodities in the above statement is done mostly by the railways. Movement of goods by water is

now more or less confined to short distances. Recently, however, fast moving trucks had been playing an important role in moving goods both to and from the district. Certain commodities like petroleum and kerosene oil, cloth, grains, spices, etc., are both imported and exported. This means that the big merchants of the district act as the agent. They import the goods and also despatch them to various other places to their retailers.

As Dalsingsarai is an important trade centre of the district for the export of chillies and turmeric, etc., the figures showing the average yearly turnover of some commodities were collected. The figures are as follows:—

Commodities.	Average export.	Destination of export.
1. Chillies	1 lakh maunds .	Calcutta, Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.
2. Tobacco	50,000 maunds ..	Central Provinces and Uttar Pradesh.

Export from the district.—So far as export is concerned, Darbhanga district exports cash crops to other districts of the State and outside the State. It is not possible to furnish exact data of different years separately. However, enquiries in this connection are conducted by traders and others and the estimated average figures as available from them for the district are as follows:—

Statement showing the estimated quantity of exports and its value.

Name of commodity.	Value in maunds.	Rupees per maund.	Estimated value in rupees.	Sources.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Linseed ..	1,50,000	22	33,00,000	Calcutta, Bhagalpur.
Mustard seed ..	40,000	27	10,80,000	Ditto.
Chillies ..	2,00,000	65	1,30,00,000	Calcutta, Bombay, Gujrat, Uttar Pradesh, Patna.
Turmeric ..	1,00,000	25	25,00,000	Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Calcutta, Gorakhpur, Basti.
Tobacco ..	50,000	80	40,00,000	Assam, Calcutta, etc.
Gur ..	30,000	13	3,90,000	Assam.
Ghee ..	7,000	180	12,60,000	Calcutta, Kanpur, Punjab.
Makhana ..	3,000	160	4,80,000	Uttar Pradesh, Calcutta, and other parts of the country.
Jute ..	2,00,000	Not available	Not available	Calcutta.

Statement showing the estimated quantity of imports and its value.

Name of commodity.	Value in maunds.	Rupees per maund.	Estimated value in Rs.	Sources.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Paddy ..	10,00,000	12	1,20,00,000	Nepal, Champaran.
Rice ..	2,00,000	22	44,00,000	Nepal, Nirmali.
Maize ..	2,00,000	13	26,00,000	Khagaria, Supaul, Naugachia, Assam and Madhya Pradesh.
Khesari ..	50,000	13	6,50,000	Sitamarhi, Bairgania.
Linseed ..	1,50,000	22	33,00,000	Nepal.
Mustard seed ..	40,000	27	10,80,000	Nepal.
Jute ..	2,00,000	Not available	Not available	Nepal and Purnea.

The important trading centres are Darbhanga, Jaynagar, Madhubani, Jhanjharpur, Ghoghardiha, Laukaha, Laukahi, Sahpurpatori, Modhwapur, Pusa Road, Rajnagar, Rusera, Sakri and Supaul.

Commodities.	Average.	Destination of export.
	Maunds.	
1. Turmeric	25,000	Delhi, Amritsar and Calcutta.
2. Linseed	15,000	Calcutta and Bombay.
3. Castor seed	25,000	Calcutta and Bombay.
4. Jute	20,000	Calcutta and Purnea.
5. *Sounf*	3,000	Calcutta and Uttar Pradesh.
6. Sugarcane	25,000	Samastipur Sugar Mill and other mills of the district.

Regulated markets.

There is no regulated market so far in this district. The State Government have passed the Bihar Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1960, to regulate the various features of agricultural marketing. The object of having regulated markets is to secure the best possible price to which the agriculturist is entitled after defraying the legitimate expenditure of marketing and after taking into account

the price that could be realised for the quality of produce in the terminal markets. Establishing equity in bargaining power between the agriculturist and purchaser and giving a fair deal to the farmer are the other objectives which tho Act seeks to achieve.

The Act provides for the formation of a Market Committee which is a corporate body charged with the administration and management of the market under its jurisdiction. The Marketing Committee shall consist of 15 elected members consisting of agriculturists, traders, co-operative societies, co-operative banks, *gram panchayats* and Government representatives.

A gazetted officer designated as Market Secretary has been posted at 10 markets in the State and Darbhanga is one of them. After collection of necessary data notification would be made under section 3 of the Act declaring the intention of the State Government to regulate the purchase and sale of agricultural produce in these markets. After considering the objections and suggestions received in this connection a final notification would be issued under section 4 enforcing the provision of the Act and the Market Committee would be formed to run the markets according to the provisions of the Act. It is proposed to cover only the wholesale transaction in important commodities at the outset.

Darbhanga being a very important trade centre mainly in agricultural cash crops, namely, chillies, tobacco, and sugarcane, will have certain new trends when there is a regulated market at Darbhanga which is bound to come in soon. It will save the producers from the interlopers and keep the growers and consumers abreast of the latest trends in the market by quick dissemination of the marketing information. It will naturally take some time to have a regulated market in Darbhanga as the Market Secretary has only recently been posted and is busy in collecting necessary data.

Grading System.

To check the malpractice of adulteration the State Marketing Organisation, under the A. P. G. M. Act, 1937 has opened Agmark grading stations in the district at following places :—

(1) *Ghee* grading stations—two at Rusera.
(2) Mango grading station—one at Pusa Road.
(3) *Ata* grading station—one at Darbhanga.
(4) Tobacco grading station—two at Pusa Road.

It has been proposed to establish State-owned *Ghee* grading laboratory at Darbhanga.

Under the quality control measures for the Agmark graded products, the Market Secretary, Darbhanga and the Officers of the State and Central Marketing Organisation regularly collect, check samples from the market and packers' premises and send them to central control laboratory for necessary analysis and check.

Hawkers.

Like pedlars in rural areas, their counterpart in urban areas, viz., hawkers, play an important role in the retail trade of the district. There is not, however, much scope for them. But they continue to be prominent in semi-urban areas. They sell comparatively cheaper articles usually in every day use, namely, fruits, sweetmeats, sugarcane juice. cheap utensils, newspapers, toys and a number of other titbits in daily use including foodstuff. Hawkers who sell tea, sweatmeats, etc., are licensed. There are, however, a large number of hawkers who do not take licenses from the municipalities. They are found to be doing their business near the railway stations, bus stands and cinemas. In towns, hawkers from nearby areas come to the *bazar* to sell their goods.

Centres of wholesale business and mandis.

There are mainly eight commodities, namely—grain, cloth, chillies, tobacco, sugarcane, *ghee*, *makhana* and paddy arranged according to importance in which wholesale business is carried on in the district. Many retail dealers of other districts like Monghyr, Muzaffarpur, Saran, Champaran, Patna and Purnea have a direct contact with wholesale dealers of the district. The petty and less resourceful dealers of the district have their dealings with the local wholesale merchants. The Samastipur subdivision is the chief chillies and tobacco producing area in the district. In this subdivision Rusera and Dalsingsarai export a large quantity of good chillies, turmeric and tobacco outside the province. The Madhubani subdivision is essentially a paddy producing area. Jainagar area is a rice bowl. There are three rice mills at Jaynagar. So far as sugarcane is concerned it is produced all over the district. The main producing areas are Rajnagar, Samastipur, Lohat, Sakri, Madhubani and Dalsingsarai. It is sent to Samastipur, Lohat and Sakri sugar mills.

The chief centres of wholesale business in the district are Darbhanga *bazar*, Samastipur, Rusera, Dalsingsarai, Madhubani, Laheriasarai and Jaynagar. Darbhanga town, Samastipur and Dalsingsarai are the chief marketing centres in the district.

Wholesale trading in grains is carried on at each of the wholesale trading centres of the district, but the most important of them are Jaynagar, Samastipur, Dalsingsarai, Darbhanga *bazar* and Rusera. Dalsingsarai is in the eastern portion of the district which is a very fertile tract. It is on the railway line from Samastipur to Barauni and has several road connections with the interior of the district. There are five big wholesalers of chillies, turmeric and tobacco and six wholesalers of grains. There is also a tobacco dust factory which produces about 20,000 maunds tobacco dust per year. Tobacco dust is chiefly sent to Assam and Uttar Pradesh.

Almost all the wholesale trading centres in the district have developed a grain *mandi*. Darbhanga, an important grain *mandi* is described below and has features typical of other *mandis*.

Darbhanga (Gullowara) grain mandi

This *mandi* is situated in the west of the railway station of Darbhanga. It is at a distance of about four miles from Darbhanga collectorate. The *mandi* is located on about one bigha of land. People intending to enter into sale or purchase of grains assemble here.

There are big godowns of *arhatias* (commission agents) in the *mandis*. The contractor of the *mandi* charges rupee one per truck load, annas eight per tyre cart load and annas four per ordinary cart load of the grain brought at the *mandi*. This amount is paid by the seller. There are several charges which a grain merchant is required to bear. There are weighing charge, *dharmada*, *dalali* and *Dhalta* (explained below). The rate of weighment charge is 6 nP. per bag of 2½ maunds. The weighment charge is paid by the purchaser. In *gur* transaction the weighman takes 1 seer of *gur* and 6 nP. per cart load of 8 to 10 maunds. The weighmen are mostly paid servants of the commission agents. The sellers also pay Rs. 1.20 on per 100 rupees worth commodities to commission agent. The purchaser has to pay Rs. 2 on per 100 rupees worth commodities. The charge for *dharmada* is 16 nP. per hundred of the turnover and is paid by the purchaser.

The weighing charge is actually the wages of the person who weigh grains, whereas *dharmada* is meant for charitable purposes. *Dharmada* is taken for religious charities such as giving alms to beggars, constructing *dharmshalas* (inns), etc. There is, however, no proper organisation to administer the amount realised as *dharmada* charges. The *mandi* has an approximate average annual turnover of 1,15,000 maunds of paddy and 60,000 maunds of rice and 5,000 maunds of *makhana* from the nearby villages and other places. *Dhalta* is a commission usually taken for transactions in oil, *ghee* and *makhana*. It is taken in kind and is usually 2 seers per maund in oilseeds and *makhana*. The *dholai* (transport from the conveyance to the godown) charge ranges from 12 nP. to 30 nP. only because it fluctuates day to day.

Dalsingsarai chillies and tobacco mandi

This mandi is situated at Dalsingsarai near the railway station. It has an average annual arrival of about 1,10,000 maunds of chillies, 60,000 maunds of tobacco and 30,000 maunds of turmeric from the nearby villages. The rates of market charges are—weighment 12 nP. per bag, *dharmada* 20 nP. per 100 rupees and *dholai* 20 to 30 nP. per 100 rupees.

As regards centres of wholesale business, the statement below will show the wholesale business and *mandis* products dealt with and total turnover :—

Name of wholesale market.	Products dealt with.	Estimated average total turnover in maunds.
1. Darbhanga	Paddy ..	3,000
	Rice ..	6,00,000
	Khesari ..	1,00,000
	Maize ..	1,30,000
	Linseed ..	3,00,000
	Mustard seed	50,000
	Gur ..	50,000
	Makhana ..	2,000
	Ghee ..	10,000
2. Jayanagar	Paddy ..	10,00,000
	Rice ..	7,00,000 (including price produce of Jaynagar Mill).
	Mustard ..	80,000
	Lin seed ..	90,000
	Ragi ..	25,000
	Jute ..	50,000
3. Laukaha	Paddy ..	1,30,000
	Rice ..	35,000
4. Laukahi	Paddy ..	1,60,000
	Rice ..	50,000
5. Jhanjharpur	Jute ..	1,00,000
6. Ghoghardiha	Jute ..	52,000
7. Madhwapur	Paddy ..	50,000
8. Madhubani	Paddy ..	45,000
	Rice ..	50,000
	Khesari ..	8,000
	Linseed ..	6,000
	Ragi ..	6,000

Name of wholesale market.	Products dealt with.	Estimated average total turnover in maunds.
	Makhana	3,000
	Paddy	45,000
9. Samastipur	Rice	2,00,000
	Maize	2,40,000
	Chillies	2,50,000
	Turmeric	1,50,000
	Jute	1,20,000
10. Sahpurpatori	Rice	50,000
	Maize	1,60,000
	Chillies	35,000
	Tobacco	16,000
	Castor seed	12,000
11. Dalsingsarai	Rice	2,06 000
	Chillies	1,00,000
	Turmeric	21,000
	Maize	1,60,000

Retail marketing centres.

The main retail marketing centres in the district are at Darbhanga, Laheriasarai, Jainagar, Samastipur, Rosera, Madhubani, Dalsingsarai, Sakri, Muktapur and Bahera. At these places retail shops of almost all the commodities locally consumed are found. Retail shops of some particular articles like radio receiving sets, sewing machines, cycles, etc., are to be found only in the urban areas like Darbhanga, Samastipur and Madhubani.

It is reported by the Labour Department that there are about 2,619 retail dealers and about 872 wholesale dealers at Darbhanga and about 585 retail dealers and 194 wholesale dealers at Madhubani. During 1961-62 the total number of retail dealers was about 5,251 and that of the wholesale dealers was about 439 in this district. Retail trading is done in all kinds of commodities like foodgrains, cloth, silk, sugar and *kirana* goods, etc.

Retail shops which provide a link between the consumer and the wholesaler are located in various wards of the town and to a

certain extent cater to the needs of the inhabitants of the localities. The stock in trade of a majority of retail trade shops is limited but rapid replenishments are made. The capital investments of most of the shops are also limited. Retailers usually have dealings with some wholesalers in the town itself but not infrequently they have dealings with bigger traders outside. Retail sales are generally on cash basis but goods on credit are also given to some customers whose accounts are settled periodically. It is feared that in a large percentage of sales no cash memos. are given and sales tax payment is avoided.

Among retail trade shops in the district the grocery group is the most important. It has the largest number of shops and provides the largest incidence of employment. Cereals and pulses, spices, jaggery, oil, *ghee*, *makhana*, condiments, tea, coffee, indigenous drugs, dry fruits, saffron, tinned goods, foodstuff, *chura* (fried rice), cigarettes, and a number of other miscellaneous articles are sold in these shops. The value of stock in trade of individual shops varies widely, i.e., from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 10,000 or so. The retail shop-keepers get their stock from the local wholesale dealers either on cash or credit and get a good margin. The local wholesalers in their turn obtain the same from various manufacturing centres particularly from bigger places within Bihar or cities like Calcutta, Bombay, Madras or Kanpur.

Next in importance to groceries come the sweetmeat and other shops that sell cooked food. There are a large number of them in Darbhanga, Jaynagar, Samastipur and Madhubani towns. There is a brisk trade in this form of business at the time of religious festivals. The stock-in-trade of this type of shops varies from Rs. 300 to Rs. 3,000. The number of people having a daily meal at such eating houses is definitely on the increase. Such shops have even penetrated into big villages.

Pan, *biri* and cigarette shops are plenty in Darbhanga district. They have a large turnover in the district. Sale is normally on cash basis. Most of the establishments are one man's establishments selling *pan*, *biri*, cigarette, chewing tobacco. etc. The stock in these trade is generally obtained locally and sometimes from outside. A large number of these establishments make small quantities of *biris* sufficient for their own sales. The value of stock-in-trade varies from Rs. 50 to Rs. 500.

As regards cloth and hosiery it may be mentioned that these shop-keepers sell all kinds of textiles cotton, woolen, silk and cotton pieces, *sarees*, *dhotis*, towels and various kinds of hosiery. Besides mill made fabrics, they stock and sell handloom and powerloom products. The stock-in-trade varies. A few large shops stock goods worth Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 80,000. Handloom and powerloom products manufactured in the district

are obtained by the shop-keepers either directly from factories or from wholesale dealers. Sales usually shoot up during festivals and marriage seasons. Handloom fabrics of Darbhanga are noted for their durability and execution and have a market outside. The *kukti* cotton brownish in colour is utilised in the handloom and *kukti* fabrics sell well.

Footwear and other leather goods such as leather accessories of shoe making such as sewing thread, nails, clips, belts, purses, etc., are sold by shop-keepers. The value of stock-in-trade of these traders varies from Rs. 600 to Rs. 4,000. Business is generally slack during monsoon and brisk during summer season.

Shop-keepers under the group of Chemists and Druggists sell chemicals of various kinds, foreign and indigenous drugs, medicines and surgical instruments. A large part of the chemicals, drugs and medicines stocked is brought mainly from Calcutta, Bombay, Patna and Madras. A medicine agent reported that out of the medicines consumed 90 per cent would be of foreign firms many of which have now located their pharmaceutical production in India. In comparison to Muzaffarpur, the markets of Darbhanga, Laheriasarai or Samastipur are smaller. Most of the wholesalers of Darbhanga and many of the retailers particularly of cotton textiles deal with the importers at Muzaffarpur. Muzaffarpur has a very big market for cloth and miscellaneous goods.

FAIRS AND *Melas* AND OTHER RURAL MARKETS

Fairs and *melas* in the district may be divided into two categories, namely, seasonal and permanent. Seasonal fairs are held in a articular season and the time of such fairs is determined by the lunar calendar. Permanent fairs or *hats* are held throughout the year on fixed days in the week and are locally known as *hats*. Seasonal fairs are basically religious in origin while *hats* on fixed days are more commercial in its origin.

Seasonal fairs are held at Jathmalpur, Benipatti, Rajnagar, Saurath, Kapileshwarsthan and Kusheswarsthan, etc. The Kusheswarsthan *mela*, ten miles east from Hasanpur Railway station is the most important among the seasonal fairs. The Saurath fair is an important social and religious congregation where the marriages of Maithil boys and girls are fixed up according to the reading of horoscope by the *Panjikars*. It is estimated that about 50,000 people congregate at Saurath on such occasion. Naturally a big collection of people of this size sees to the turnover of a lot of essential commodities.

Regarding fairs the last District Gazetteer of Darbhanga mentions as follows :—

> "A considerable amount of trade is also carried on at the annual fairs held in various parts of the district, the most

important of which are the Kusheswar Asthan, held at Reota, 38 mies south-east of Darbhanga, on the 14th Phagun (February-March), and the Sivaratri fairs held at Saurath and at Kapileswar, 4 and 7 miles respectively from Madhubani. Other large fairs are held at Silanath and Dubhi, 15 miles from Khajauli, at Pipraghat, 30 miles south-east of Darbhanga, at Sultanpur in the jurisdiction of the Mohiuddinagar outpost, and at Mahadeonath in the Phulparas thana. These are all primarily religious gatherings ; but they are attended by large numbers, and a brisk trade is driven at them by traders, who supply the crowds with various articles of commerce. Here, as elsewhere in the district, the chief traders are Agarwalas, Barnawars, Kasarwanis, Kathbanias, Khattris and Sinduias".*

In Darbhanga district fairs are held on many occasions in the year, namely, *Falgun Triodasi*, *Phagun Sivaratri*, *Basant Panchmi*, *Sravan Nag Panchami*, *Kartic Purnima*, *Chaita Sankranti*, *Anant Chaturdasi*, etc. The congregation on the occasion of *Sravan* is the largest and next comes *Sivaratri*. The Sravan *mela* is held on every Monday and continues on the successive four to five Mondays. At Kusheswarsthan there is a temple of Lord Shiva where a *mela* is held at the time of *Shivaratri*. About 20,000 visitors assemble there.

At Benipatti, Singhwara and Rajnagar the fair is held on the occasion of *Vijayadashmi* and lasts for about ten days and attracts a large number of visitors both rural and urban.

A big *mela* is held on the occasion of *Muharram* at Laheriasarai town where thousands of people congregate and the *mela* lasts for two days.

There is a Shiva temple at Tilkeshwarasthan, ten miles from Kusheswar Asthan. A *mela* is held in the month of *Sravan* and on every Monday people assemble there to worship Shiva. About ten thousand people visit the temple.

Every *mela* helps trade and commerce. A large number of temporary shops crop up and various commodities including luxury goods are sold and purchased. The visitors and particularly those from the rural areas visit the *melas* also for making purchases for their domestic needs. Apart from these big *melas* several other seasonal smaller *melas* are also held in various parts of the district.

So far as *hats* are concerned they are held once or twice a week in a large number of villages. They are the primary market for grains and other village produce.

* District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907), p. 95.

Co-operation in Wholesale and Retail Trade.

Without mutual co-operation neither the wholesaler nor the retailer can thrive. Their relationship is flexible so far as facility is concerned. Usually credit facility is allowed where the relationship is old and firm. Outright cash purchases are not uncommon and are marked by a more liberal commission. Both the parties are careful where perishable goods like fish, milk, *makhana*, *ghee*, butter, etc., are concerned and normally credit facilities are not allowed. Some other cash crops like sugarcane or chillies are also usually sold outright.

Mode of Dissemination of Trade News.

Trade news of markets in general percolate to the local merchants through letters, daily papers, radios, telephones and telegrams. The daily newspapers published from Patna, Calcutta, Bombay or other places in English or in the vernacular languages carry trade news and they are eagerly scanned. Recently some exclusive trade journals published from Bombay or Calcutta are becoming popular. Besides these merchants also receive information from Government Department. A marketing section has been opened under the guidance of the Agricultural Department and a Marketing Inspector has been appointed who communicates news regarding trade and commerce, fluctuations of daily rates of the market to the traders.

Merchant, Consumer and Labour Association.

As regards Merchants Association, it is gathered that there are two such associations. They are the *Dukan Karmchari Sangh*, Hasanpur and the *Dukan Evam Pratisthan Karamchari Sangh*. They are associations of the employees. The sugar merchant associations has been formed in each of the three subdivisions of the district, namely, at Madhubani, Samastipur and Laheriasarai. Each of them has a separate entity. The Cloth Merchant Association and Marwari Merchant Association are affiliated to North Bihar Chamber of Commerce, Muzaffarpur. These associations have been formed to foster the interests of businessmen. The Bihar Chamber of Commerce with headquarters in Patna have some smaller associations of Darbhanga district affiliated to it. This Chamber is an association of the bigger trades people. There is no recognised or well-knit consumers' association.

Generally about 1,500 to 2,000 people from the neighbouring villages gather at these *hats* to purchase commodities for domestic use like cloth, spices, vegetables, grains, etc. Some of the *hats* which serve a larger population have a few permanent groceries or sweetmeat shops. Pusa and Kalyanpur *hats* are such examples. Some grain merchants also depute their men to purchase grains

at these *hats*. Many transactions at these *hats* are carried out on barter system and it is a common sight to find village folks exchanging grains for vegetables, salts, spices, etc. The chief modes of conveyance for carrying goods to the *hats* are the bullock carts, pack bullocks and ponies, and by head load.

Apart from *hats* and fairs there are several permanent *bazars* in the district usually on the main roads. Generally at these shops commodities like salt, mustard oil, kerosene oil, *ghee*, pulses, etc., are sold. Cloth shops are also found at every village of some importance. A village or a township having such several shops of a comparatively bigger in size are locally known as *bazars*. Much of the retail business in the district is carried through these *bazars*.

PRICE CONTROL MEASURES.

Due to the exigencies of the Second Great War there was an abnormal rise of price of certain essential commodities, viz., rice, wheat, cloth, cement, kerosene, petrol, etc. It was necessary to control the supply and regiment the consumption of these articles for essential purposes. The State Government along with the Central Government had to follow a uniform and co-ordinated policy of controlling the supply of such goods which were absolutely necessary for the public. In order to check the spiral rise of price of such articles and to stop the rampant black marketing in them, the scheme of the opening of Fair Price Shops in the urban areas was evolved. A buffer reserve of essential commodities was sought to be built up by the State Government by direct procurement of foodgrains and other articles, stock them in Government godown and supply them to the Fair Price Shops which were licensed. The Fair Price Shops were under strict control and inspection. The system of ration card for the consumers was insisted on where a maximum quota of foodgrains and cloth was laid down for each individual in a family unit. For this purpose a survey of the family units was made.

The Fair Price Shops were first started in Darbhanga district in 1942 for supply of rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene oil and cloth. etc. At no stage was there a totalitarian control on such stuffs which had a salutary effect in bringing down the prices of such commodities available outside the Fair Price Shops. Whenever there would be a large supply of the commodities in the market through normal channels, the demand for taking stuffs from the Fair Price Shops would automatically decline. This system continued throughout the war period and is still continuing in some shape or other.

During war period Government had also to exercise control over steel, iron goods, cement and petrol but the supply of these commodities was not made through the Fair Price Shops. These commodities continued to be supplied to the public through their

normal agencies but under the restrictions imposed by statutory orders.

Even after the close of the Second Great War, the control on the essential food stuffs as indicated before has had to continue. The ration card system for drawing commodities had stood the test and was allowed to remain although the demand on the Fair Price Shops becomes more insistent whenever there is an abnormal rise of prices due to short supply or other reasons.

The control was abolished in 1950 but had to be reimposed shortly. Due to failure of *Hathia* rains in 1951 and 1957 there became acute shortage of foodgrains in the District. The Government opened a large number of Fair Price Shops throughout the district to check the abnormal rise of prices and also to regulate the distribution of foodgrains. At present (1962) there are 30 godowns and 24 Supply Inspectors in this district to distribute grains to Fair Price Shops.

There are Government godowns at Hayaghat, Jogiara, Kamtaul, **Sakri, Bahera, Bijoul, Laheriasarai, Manigachi, Jhanjharpur,** Ghanshyampur, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Khajauli, Jaynagar, Tamuria, Ghoghardiha, Chauta, Madhepur, Rajnagar, Benipatti, Anharathari, Madhurapur, Samastipur, Kishanpur, Pusa Road, Dalsingsarai, Rusera, Hasanpur, Patori and Kusheswarasthan. There are Supply Inspectors posted at Laheriasarai, Darbhanga, Hayaghat, Sakri, Jhanjharpur, Kamtaul, Bahera, Manigachi, Kishanpur, Pusa Road, Samastipur, Dalsingsarai, Patori, Rusera, Hasanpur, Madhubani, Benipatti, Rajnagar, Jaynagar, Ghoghardiha, and Tamuria.

The following statement shows supply of foodgrains (wheat and rice, etc.) through Fair Price Shops, number of godowns for storage of Government foodgrains and number of Fair Price Shops functioning in the district of Darbhanga since 1957-58 to 1960-61:—

	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959-60.	1960-61.
1. Number of Godowns functioning	27	44	30	30
2. Supply of foodgrains (in maunds).	12,87,776	25,09,298	6,61,131	18,58,506
3. Number of Fair Price Shops ..	1,293	917	1,445	1,450

CONTROL ON OTHER ARTICLES.

Iron and Steel.—At present (January, 1962) iron and steel are in short supply although there is no direct control. There are

two registered iron stockists, one at Samastipur and another at Darbhanga. Allotment of iron is made by the State Government to the stockists through quota certificate. The stockists submit indent to the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta. The supply is irregular and does not satisfy the needs. The quotas given are very inadequate.

Cement.—The Bihar Cement Control Order, 1948 was introduced in December, 1948, which required dealers to obtain licence and dispose of the stock at controlled rates to permit-holders. In 1958, due to satisfactory position of cement, control over its distribution was relaxed. In 1959 the control over distribution of cement was withdrawn. In 1960 due to restricted movement supply position of cement became uncertain and Government have had to introduce the quota system on cement allotment. The selling rate of cement has to be fixed by the Subdivisional Officers concerned. At present (January, 1962) there are 23 cement licensees in Sadar subdivision, 17 in Samastipur subdivision and 26 in Madhubani subdivision. The present quarterly quota of the district is about 40 wagons but there is difficulty in wagon movement. Hence to meet the scarcity the Government have to take the help of new licensees who would procure cement by road. The cement factories being far away from Darbhanga this system has not been very helpful. On local enquiry it was found that throughout till 1961 there has been a great difficulty in wagon movement of cement. There is an acute demand of cement in the district owing to cement scarcity.

Kerosene oil.—The Bihar Kerosene Oil Control Order was promulgated in 1949 in this district to regulate the supply and distribution of kerosene oil. In 1952-53 due to foreign supply, i.e., from Burma and other places the position somewhat improved and in 1953-54 the control on kerosene oil was withdrawn and since then supply position is reported to be satisfactory.

Weights and Measures

Regarding Weights and Measures W. W. Hunter in his "A Statistical Account of Bengal", Volume XIII (Tirhut and Champaran, published in 1877) mentions as follows :—

"The following is the standard table of weights:—8 *chaul*=1 *rati*; 8 *rati*=1 *masha*; 12 *masha*=1 *tola*; or 180 grains troy; 5 *tola*= 1 *chhatak*; 4 *chhatak*=1 *poa*; 4 *poa*=1 *ser*, or 14,400 grains troy=i.e. 2¼ lb. troy, or 2.05 lb. avoirdupois; 40 *sers*=1 *man* or maund, but this standard table is not much in use in Tirhut District; where the common way of calculating weight is by *gandas*, and *pice*. Thus, in what is called a *pakka ser*, there are 23 *gandas* and 92 *pice*, there being four *lohiah pice* to each *ganda*. There are

therefore 3,680 *pice* in a standard maund. In what is called a *kachcha ser* there are only 12 *gandas*, or 48 *pice*: but different bazars have different *sers*, and the number of *gandas* in each *ser* varies accordingly.

"Time is measured thus=60 *bipa*=1 *pal*: 60 *pal*=1 *dand*; 2½ *dand*=1 *ghanta*; 2½ *ghanta*=1 *prahar*; 24 *ghanta*=1 day and night: 7 days=1 *hafta*; 15 days=1 *paksha*.

Measures of area—20 *firki*=1 *dhurki*; 20 *dhurki*=1 *dhur*; 20 *dhur*=1 *katha*; 20 *katha*=1 *bigha*, 1 *dhur*=1 *square lagi* of 6, 6½ or 6¾ *haths*. In one *hath* there are 24 *anguli* or fingers *breadths*. The *hath* thus varies according to the breadth of any one's finger; and from the rent-rates submitted by the collector in 1872, it seems that in Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur the standard of acre is 1 *bigha*, 2 *kathas*, 18 *dhurs*, in Tajpur and Madhubani, 1 *bigha*, 5 *kathas*; in Sitamarhi, 1 *bigha*, 2 *kathas*, 1 *dhur*, 7 *dhurki*, and in Hajipur, 1 *bigha*, 11 *kathas* 19 *dhurs*."

Mr. L.S.S.O'Malley in the last District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907) mentions that, "There is no uniform system of weights and measures in the district. Both *kachcha* and *pakka seers* are recognised; the standard *seer* of 80 *tolas* is generally used in the towns, but even in Darbhanga town a local seer of 88 *tolas* is also common; while a *seer* of 50 or 52 *tolas* is used in the villages. For gold, silver and country medicines the following weights are used —1 *tola*=12 *mashas* and 1 *masha*= 8 *ratis*. There is a similar diversity of practice with regard to measures of length. Cloth dealers use one yard of 41 inches. For measuring lands the pole or *laggi* is usually employed, and this is equivalent to 9 feet 8½ inches. The other measures of length in common use is the *hath*, which is usually equal to 18 inches.

"The measures of capacity generally recognized by the people and the *jhabba*, *chunga* and *paili*. The *jhabba* is used for milk and oil. and the *chunga* or *mapa* for wine, oil and other liquids; both are regarded as equal to a seer of 80 *tolas*. Another measure, also used for oil and milk, is called *paili*, if made of bamboo, or *napna*, if made of earthenware this is equal to a seer of 52 *tolas*." *

With the introduction of metric system of weights and measures (1959) the age old system of maunds seers and *chhattaks* and inch, foot and yard have now come to an end but not completely. The 'Bihar Weights and Measures Enforcement Act, 1959' has been compulsorily enforced in urban areas but some big wholesale dealers still use old weights in the markets.

*District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907), p. 96.

For the implementation of the current weights being used, the Government of Bihar has appointed three Inspectors, posted at Darbhanga Sadar, Samastipur and Madhubani. The Inspectors are expected to visit the bazars in their jurisdiction and check the weights and measures in use. In 1961 there were a few raids which had some effect. But the spasmodic raids so far have not been able to see to the general currency of the weights and measures now prescribed.

It may also be mentioned that people are habituated to make sale or purchase in weights of maund, seer and *chhattaks* for hundreds of years. The enforcement of Metric system will put the common man in some confusion at the beginning but this sense will pass off quickly. The Inspectors of Weights and the Metric Officer of this department have been entrusted with publicity and propaganda work. Publicity and propaganda as to the metric system are made in the markets, fairs and exhibitions, where pamphlets are distributed free. The Inspectors have also to instruct the *Mukhias*, *Gram sewaks* and village level workers so that they could teach the mass. One set of metric weights from 50 Kilograms to 100 grams has been supplied to every block for exhibition.

Standard weights are manufactured by bonafide licensed dealers. They sell standard weights. There are five dealers at Darbhanga, two at Madhubani and three at Samastipur.

HATS AND FAIRS

Names of fairs in Sadar subdivision.—Ahiari, Ahilyaasthan, Bajitpur, Barhampur, Bhandorso, Chhaparaghat, Dekuli, Mahadeo, Ekaunighat, Gandhar, Gansaghat, Gautamkund, Gewachghat, Jogiara, Kamtaul, Mohisame, Nehra, Tirmohani.

Names of fairs of Madhubani subdivision.—Barhampur, Barnar, Barri, Basaitha, Bhagwanpur, Bharwa, Bisheshwar Asthan, Checheri Bajrang, Dalalaghat, Deep, Purwari Tola, Dhoghat, Dumara, Durga Asthan, Ghoghardiha, Gusa tola, Hari, Hatani, Hirapatti, Hulaspatti, Jagban, Janipur, Karahi, Kahuwa, Madhua, Madhepur, Madhubani, Madheshwarasthan, Mahataur, Mahammadpur, Parsauni, Pokhrauni, Punam, Raghauli, Raghuba Chale, Rajnagar, Rampatti, Ryam, Sheonagar, Silauth, Uchaita, Usant.

Names of fairs of Samastipur subdivision.—Baleshwarasthan-Barhi, Basanpur, Birauli, Bithanmela, Chaita, Chamtaghat, Damodarpur, Digharna, Jatmalpur, Khairi, Khidirpur, Khoha Tilakpur Kias, Kusheshwarasthan, Mahadeoasthan, Mangalagarh, Muktapur, Narhan, Pataili, Patori, Pipraghat, Rusera, Saidpur, Samastipur, Singia, Tilakawarghat, Turaha Pokhar, Waini, Bazitpur.

NAMES OF HATS.

Names of Hats of Sadar subdivision.—Bansadih, Benipur, Bhawanipur, Bilashpur, Barhmpur, Chakaha, Chak Basawan, Dadarwasa,

Dheang, Dekuli, Deora, Dhamar, Dhoghra, Dighiar, Gangauli, Gangdah, Ghordaur, Gurgawan, Halidih, Harha Harlakhi, Govindpur, Hawai Bhamar, Gogarnathpur, Jamalpur, Jagia, Jale, Kalwara, Kamtaul, Keoti, Kharwan, Kishi, Molili Madhopur, Mahinadpur, Mahiname, Mahithaur, Mauna, Naulakha, Nehra, Paigamberpur, Pindaruch, Rashiari, Rasulpur, Ratanpura, Ryam, Sakatpur, Sakalsaraipur, Sarahwara, Sarapti, Simari, Siughwara, Singua, Sonepur, Supal, Suari, Tarapethia, Uffardaha, Wari.

Names of Hats of Madhubani subdivision.—Bangawis, Basopati, Bainar, Barhi, Barhi Babu, Barnar, Basaitha, Basauli, Bathnaha, Behta. Bhadaur, Bhauduli, Bhagwanpur, Bharwara, Bheja, Bistaul, Chanoganj, Chitahi, Chichari Bajrang. Dalokhar, Deodha, Deorh, Dhogma, Dipgodhanpur, Dubali, Durga Asthan, Gangaur, Ghoghardiha, Ghormahna, Haidarpur, Harlakhi, Umgaon, Hisar, Jaynagar, Rajnagar, Jhanjharpur, Kachhua, Kalo, Kamalpur, Karahia, Kasbandha, Karmauli, Khajauli, Khangaraitha, Khirhar, Khutauna, Ladania, Lakhanaur, Lalmania, Lankahi, Lohat, Lohna, Madhepur, Madhubani, Madna, Madneshwar, Marhraniganj, Mahgati, Mirjapur, Mulmui, Nijwasa, Nahera, Nalihath, Narahia, Narar, Nassaw, Padma, Pahi, Pask Parsa, Parsauni, Patwara, Raghopur, Rajnagar, Rampati, Rudaspur, Sahar, Sakari, Sarabi, Sarrah, Sheonagar, Shishwal, Shishawana, Sukh, Teotha, Tisiahi, Tisi Narsawan, Tulpatganj, Uchaitha, Zafra.

Names of Hats of Samastipur subdivision.—Baranda, Belsanditara, Birha, Bhopati, Baranda, Bikrampur, Birauli, Birsingpur, Bithan Bazar, Chak Basauli, Chandauli, Chandchaur, Charo, Chaita, Dherampur, Dhagharna, Dubaha, Dudhpura, Durlakh, Fatmachak, Gargapur, Gangpur, Gurkara, Garsibai, Gaispur, Hasauli, Hasanpur, Halai, Inarwa, Janardanpur, Jathmalpur, Jhajhar, Kalyanpur, Kancha, Kasoma, Madhopur, Kedasspur, Kepokhar, Kesopatti, Khanpur, Kias, Nizamatpur, Kishanpur. Kothia, Kurwa, Kusiarpur, Lachhminia, Ladaura, Lalpur, Lohagir, Maniarpur, Mansapur, Marwara, Mathurapur, Mirjapur, Mohamadpur, Mahdarmath, Mohanpur, Morawa, Muktapur, Najarbasti, Narsham, Nazirpur, Nirpur, Patauli, Phuwasa, Pitanjhia, Pithigachhi, Purushottampur, Pusa, Rabimpur, Udauli, Raipur, Ramkishun, Ratanpura, Rewari, Rudauli, Rupauli, Sahbajpur, Sahpur, Saidpur, Sakhmohan, Salempur, Sambhupati Sarsawan, Satanpur, Sansa. Sibrangpur, Simara, Tarachak, Thaka, Tiswara, Ujiarpur.

CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATIONS

Old time trade routes and highways and modes of conveyance.

As regards trade route, the 'Statistical Reporter' for August, 187?, mentioned that the river was the main trade channel and different types of boats were in use. It further mentioned that the principal rivers of the Tirhut were the Great Gandak, the Baghmati and the Burhi Gandak.

Regarding the modes of conveyance, the last District Gazetteer by L. S. S. O' Malley (1907), has mentioned, "The two kinds of carts most commonly used for transporting goods are the *chaghus* and the *Saggar*. Both are two-wheeled carts drawn by bullocks, but the former is a large cart with long bamboo poles projecting in front from either side and the latter is a lighter and rougher kind of cart, usually employed for carrying country produce. The conveyances most generally used by passengers are the *ekka*, *manjholi* and *champani*. The *ekka* is a two-wheeled light trap, drawn by a single pony which can be used over the most uneven ground; the body consists of a framework, covered with cloth, across which *newar* tops is woven. The *manjholi* and *champani* are both drawn by two bullocks. The former is similar in construction to an *ekka*, but the yoke consists of a beam of wood at right angles to another long beam projecting from the body of the cart. The *champani* is a two-wheeled and sometime four-wheeled light carriage similar in construction to an omnibus. It has, however, no benches, and the travellers squat or lie down as they please. It has a pole with a cross-bar which rests on the backs of the bullocks which drag it."*

There have been many changes in the Darbhanga district since the observations of O' Malley. The railways and the roadways have now become more important in trade routes than waterways. There has been a great expansion and development of roadways since and the public and private carriers, long distance passenger buses have become a rival of the railways. But although fast moving vehicles have become common, they have not been able to diminish the importance or the number of the bullock carts. The old type *palkis* and *dolis* are seldom seen and rickshaws, taxis and private cars are the common vehicles in the urban areas. Bullock carts and *ekkas* still serve the rural areas. Cycles have become very common.

Regarding roads Mr. J. H. Kerr in his "Final report on the Survey and Settlement Operation in the Darbhanga District (1896 to 1903)"

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*District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907), p. 111.

published in 1904 mentions that "the district contains 1,734 miles of roads, or a little more than half a mile of road to every square mile of superficial area.

"Many of the roads in the low lying tract in the central and south-eastern part of the district are impassable during the rains, and this area is undoubtedly in lack of good communications. It must, however, be confessed that the matter is one of considerable difficulty. The nature of the country is such as to render high embankments a necessity. These are expensive to maintain in repair and are frequently breached in time of flood. To avoid this, an enormous amount of bridging would be necessary".

He further mentions that the roads from Darbhanga to Jaynagar on the frontier which crossed all the rivers in the west of the Madhubani Subdivision had been completely bridged throughout at the cost of the Darbhanga Raj. In Samastipur where the country was high, comparatively little embanking or bridging was required, and most of the roads were in good order and communications are opened at all seasons of the year.

The roads were classified as follows :—

Number of Class.	Description of Class.	Mileage.
IA	Metalled, bridged and drained ..	23
IB	Metalled partially bridged and drained ..	112
IIA	Unmetalled, bridged and drained ..	329
IIB	Unmetalled, partially bridged and drained.	553
	Village roads ..	717
	TOTAL ..	1,734

O' Malley in the last District Gazetteer of Darbhanga mentions :— "In the early days of British administration, North Bihar was far better provided with roads than the South Gangetic district owing to the European enterprise which was attracted to this part of the country with an industry so valuable as the manufacture of indigo, it was only natural that attention should be given to the maintenance and improvement of means of communication, and the following extract from a report submitted by the Collector of Tirhut in 1824 shows that such roads as the interior of the district possessed were almost entirely due to the efforts of the planters. "The roads", he wrote, "are not under my control, but under that of the Magistrate, who usually repairs them with his prisoners as far as they can conveniently be sent. The Zamindars do little or nothing

in that way. The roads in the immediate vicinity of th... indigo factories are usually in good order, but they a... solely at the expense of the proprietors of the facto... roads or bye-ways in the interior of the district are ve... barely possible for hackeries. There are a number of str... *jheels* in the district, wherefore bullocks are not mu... hackeries are, however, used near the indigo factories, ... sionally towards the northward but the wear and tear of ... is great in consequence of the usually bad state of th... Owing to the number of streams, much of the produce of th... trict is conveyed by water where the roads are good, it is ... owing to their being repaired by the Magistrate or by the plan... Little however appears to have been done to extend and im... the number of these roads, until a District Committee was esta... lished in 1870 for the administration of the funds which wer... apart for the construction, maintenance and repair of roads, br... etc. During the famines of 1874 relief labour was largely emp... in constructing new roads and repairing the existing ones in spite of this activity, the total length of roads made over to Roads Cess Committee of Darbhanga, on its formation in 18... was only 648 miles.*

...nce that date the construction of additional roads and ... maintenance of old ones have received close attention; a... 1905-06 the length of metalled roads had increased to 52... and of unmetalled roads to 1,953 miles besides 7... mil... villages roads. In other words, the length of roads is now ... than thrice what it was 30 years ago, and there is more than half a mile of road to every square mile of superficial area in spite of the fact that the resources of the District Board have been severely strained at times by the enormous damage caused by the floods which occasionally sweep down upon the district. Much has been done during the quinquennium ending in 1904-05 in the repair, raising and metalling of old roads, in the making of new roads, and in the construction of bridges. During this period the aggregate expenditure on original works has been 4½ lakhs or 61 per cent more than in the preceding 5 years and that on repairs 3¾ lakhs. Special attention has also been paid to the extension of roads as feeders to the railway, and the length of the district roads has been increased by 46 miles.

"Roads radiate from Darbhanga town and the subdivisional headquarters to the most important places in the interior, and from Darbhanga town and the Sakri, Jhanjharpur and Nirmali railway stations to the Nepal frontier. The most important of these roads is the main road running eastwards from Muzaffarpur

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* The letters of K. M. Kisoh, a young civilian who worked in 1874 famine show that he did all his work on foot, horses and elephants and the condition of the roads was extremely poor (P. C.R.C.).

Darbhanga town and Narahia to Purnea. The central ...-eastern portion of the district is still, however, in want ...ommunication and many of the roads are impassable during ... *

Roads now.

...roads are now classified as P. W. D. roads, District Board ...and village roads.

...here are 37 roads in Darbhanga district under the jurisdiction ...of Public Works Division, Darbhanga. The total mileage of these roads including the National Highways and State Highways is 540.96 miles. Of these 202.88 miles are pitched at the end of 1961.

National Highways have been defined as 'main highways' serving predominantly national as distinct from State purposes running through the length and breadth of India, which together form a system connecting (by routes as direct as practicable) major ...orts, foreign highways, capital of States and including highways ...equired for strategic movements for the defence of India.

State Highways have been defined as all other main trunk or arterial roads of a State connecting up with National Highways or State Highways of adjacent States, District Headquarters and ...mportant cities within the State, serving as main arteries of traffic to and from district roads. These are usually maintained by State Government and are generally bridged and metalled and are completely motorable throughout the year, except that sometimes where there are causeways or submergible bridges, traffic may be interrupted in the monsoon for a very short period. State Highways usually have connections with the National Highways.

The Public Works Department roads are mentioned below :—

Serial no.	Name of road.	Classification.	Mileage.	Mileage of pitched portion.
1	Darbhanga-Samastipur Road including Pandasarai Road.	State Highways.	28	28
2	Darbhanga-Rohika-Jaynagar Road	,,	34.5	34.5
3	Darbhanga-Sakri Road	,,	12	12
4	Darbhanga-Muzaffarpur Road	,,	9.6	9.6
5	Darbhanga-Baheri-Singia-Rusera Road	,,	38.3	4

*District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907), pp. 109 to 110.

Serial no.	Name of road.	Classification.	Mileage.	Mileage of pitched portion.
6	Darbhanga-Kamtaul-Basaitha-Madhwapur Road.	State Highways.	36	Nil
7	Madhubani-Rohika Road	,,	5.25	5.25
8	Madhubani-Saurath-Pokhrauni Road ..	,,	5.5	5.5
9	Madhubani-Pandaul-Sakri Road ..	,,	9.15	9.15
10	Madhubani-Jhanjharpur-MadhepurRoad	,,	27	Nil
11	Madhubani-Rajnagar-Babubarhi-Khutauna Road.	,,	25	Nil
12	Rohika-Benipatti-Pupri Road ..	,,	26	16
13	Sakri-Jhanjharpur-Phulparas-Khutauna-LoukahaRoad.	,,	49.4	10
14	Sakri-Bahera Road	,,	10	10
15	Bahera-Biroul-Kusheswarasthan Road..	,,	25	3
16	Ghogardiha-Phulparas Road ..	,,	5.25	4.5
17	Dholi-Kalyanpur Road	,,	13	13
18	Samastipur-Tajpur Road	,,	9	
19	Samastipur-Rusera Road	,,	16	Nil
20	Samastipur-Sarairanjan-Patori Road ..	,,	22	Nil
21	Mahnar-Mohiuddinagar-Bachhwara Road	,,	24	Nil
22	Muzaffarpur-Tajpur-Dalsingsarai Road	National Highways.	17.75	Nil
23	(a) Samastipur-Dalsingsarai Road	Part of old National Highways.	18	18
	(b) Samastipur-Muzaffarpur Road (portion up to Pusa).	,,	8	Nil
24	Jaynagar-Ladania Road	State Highways.	13.25	Nil
25	Town Road, Laheriasarai ..	,,	2	2
26	Rayam-Keoti-Runway Road ..	Sugar Factory Area Road.	4.9	4.9
27	Sakri Mill to D. B. No. 4 Road ..	,,	0.75	0.75
28	Nauratanpur-Kanhauli Road ..	,,	0.5	0.5
29	Sakri-Pathan-Kabai Road ..	,,	3	3
30	Pandaul-Batlohia Road	,,	2.83	2.83

Serial no.	Name of road.	Classification.	Mileage.	Mileage of pitched portion.
31	Lohat-Batlohia Road	Sugar Factory Area Road.	1.0	1.0
32	Lohat-Bhorghat Road	"	1.5	1.5
33	Manigachi-Bathya Road	"	5.53	1
34	Batlohia-Rampatti Road	"	4	Nil
35	Hassanpur-Bithan Road	"	8	8
36	Samastipur-Hansamanwara Road ..	"	7	7
37	Hassanpur-Sakhuaghat Road ..	"	3.8	Nil
		TOTAL	540.96	202.98

1. *Darbhanga-Samastipur Road.*—This road connects Darbhanga with Samastipur and passes through Laheriasarai which is the headquarters of the district. There are two bridges, one on river Baghmati and another on river Burhi Gandak. There are 14 other existing screw pile bridges on this road. It is metalled.

2. *Darbhanga-Rohika-Jaynagar Road.*—It connects Darbhanga with Jaynagar which is an important business centre on the Indo-Nepal border. The road is metalled and is subjected to heavy traffic as many of the buses ply to Jaynagar. Its length is 34.5 miles.

3. *Darbhanga-Sakri Road.*—In connects Darbhanga with Sakri, an important business and industrial centre. There is a sugar factory at Sakri. It is a metalled road of 12 miles. Sakri is also a railway junction which connects Nirmali and Jaynagar.

4. *Darbhanga-Muzaffarpur Road.*—This road connects Darbhanga and Laheriasarai with Muzaffarpur, another district of Bihar State. It is metalled road. It is an extremely busy road and passenger buses and trucks constantly ply connecting Darbhanga with Muzaffarpur.

5. *Darbhanga-Baheri-Singia-Rusera Road.*—This road connects the district headquarters with many important places and terminates at Rusera, an important business centre.

6. *Darbhanga-Kamtaul-Basaitha-Madhwapur Road.*—This road has been taken up since last year and is under progress. It is 36 miles unmetalled road. It connects Madhepur on the Indo-Nepal border.

7. ***Madhubani-Rohika Road.***—It is a metalled road and buses and trucks ply. The road is a link to Darbhanga-Jaynagar road.

8. ***Madhubani-Saurath-Pokhrauni Road.***—This road is connected with the Darbhanga-Jaynagar Road at Pokhrauni passing through Saurath. It is a State Highway. Saurath is a noted place and Maithil Brahmans in thousands collect here during a particular time and marriage negotiations take place. The Saurath *mela* is still in vogue according to the old Maithil tradition.

9. *Madhubani-Pandaul-Sakri Road.*—This road connects Sakri which is linked with Darbhanga and Laheriasarai. This road runs parallel to the railway but the passenger buses are always as full as the trains.

10. *Madhubani-Jhanjharpur-Madhepur Road.*—The work of this road has been taken from 1960 and is under progress. It connects Madhepur and Jhanjharpur with Madhubani, the Subdivisional headquarters.

11. *Madhubani-Rajnagar-Babubarhi-Khutauna Road.*—This road connects the Subdivisional headquarters, Madhubani with Khutauna which is about 6 miles from the Indo-Nepal Border. The Kamala Balan river intervenes where a major bridge has to be constructed.

12. *Rohika-Benipatti Pupri Road.*—Rohika connects Pupri, i.e., Janakpur Road Railway Station *via* Benipatti There is a proposal to construct bridge at Sulemanghat. When the work will be completed, it will provide a direct link from Madhubani to Sitamarhi, a Subdivisional headquarters of Muzaffarpur district.

13. *Sakri-Jhanjharpur-Phulparas-Khutauna-Laukaha Road.*—This connects Laukaha, a place on Indo-Nepal border with Darbhanga *via* Sakri. The road almost runs parallel to railway line. But there is no rail link from Phulparas to Laukaha.

14. *Sakri-Bahera Road.*—This road passes through a very fertile area and important villages, namely, Nehara and Harpur. It helps to transport sugarcane to Sakri Sugar Mill. Foodgrains and other rural produce are taken to Sakri railway station.

15. *Bahera-Biroul-Kusheswarasthan Road.*—This road connects Bahera-Biroul and Kusheswarasthan. Kusheshwarasthan has some temples and is a religious place for Hindus. The length of the road is 25 miles, only three miles of which are metalled.

16. *Ghogharadiha-Phulparas Road.*—This road connects Phulparas with Ghoghardiha railway station. The Ghoghardiha-Phulparas road although only 5¼ miles long has a heavy seasonal traffic load, as it is in a very fertile area.

17. *Dholi-Kalyanpur Road.*—This metalled road bifurcates from Darbhanga-Samastipur road and runs towards Muzaffarpur.

18. *Samastipur-Tajpur Road.*—The National Highways have byepassed the Samastipur town and passes *via* Tajpur. The road provides Samastipur a link to the National Highways.

19. *Samastipur-Rusera Road.*—This road has been taken up in 1960 and is in progress. The road is almost parallel to railway and will be an important road link with Rusera, an important town for trade and commerce. Rusera will ultimately be connected with Darbhanga by a direct road link.

20. *Samastipur-Sarairanjan-Patori Road.*—This road connects Samastipur with Patori and other neighbouring villages. The work has been taken in 1958. The road will open up a fertile area growing excellent cash crops such as chilli and tobacco.

21. *Mahnar-Mohiuddinagar-Bachhwara Road.*—This road is a part of the road running parallel to the railway link from Hajipur to Barauni Junction. From Hajipur to Mahnar (up to the Darbhanga district border) the road is under Muzaffarpur Division. The road under Darbhanga P. W. Division commences from the district border and connects the National Highways near Bachhwara. The road runs parallel to the Ganga river.

22. *Muzaffarpur-Tajpur-Dalsingsarai Road.*—It is National Highways road and the portion falling in the Darbhanga district is under Darbhanga Division. It starts from Muzaffarpur and passes through Tajpur and Dalsingsarai, etc. and ends in Monghyr district. The road is under improvement.

23. *Samastipur-Dalsingsarai Road.*—This road from Samastipur to Dalsingsarai has been metalled. The road connects Barauni in Monghyr district through Teghra and will have a very great importance with the development of Barauni which is fast becoming an industrial centre When the portion from Dalsingsarai to Barauni is metalled and black-topped a motorist from Patna will be able to reach Laheriasarai within six hours or less.

24. *Jaynagar-Ladania Road.*—This road runs parallel to the Indo-Nepal border. The road crosses the Kamala-Balan river just near Jaynagar town which has been bridged. Improvement of the road is in progress.

25. *Town Road, Laheriasarai.*—This road runs to the court building from the residential buildings.

26. Rayam Keoti-Runway Road.

27. Sakri Mill D. B. No. 4 Road.

28. Nauratanpur-Kanhauli Road.

29. Sakri-Pathan-Kabai Road.

30. Pandaul-Batlohia Road.

31. Lohat-Batlohia Road.

32. Lohat-Bhorghat Road.

33. Manigachi-Bathya Road.

All these roads (26 to 33) are sugar factory area roads and all have been improved except Manigachi-Bathya road which is under improvement.

34. *Batlohia-Rampatti Road.*—This is also a sugar factory road where improvement work is going on.

35. *Hassanpur-Bithan Road.*—This has already been metalled. It passes from Bithan through the cane-growing area and connects Hassanpur where there is a sugar mill.

36. *Samastipur-Hansamanwara Road.*—This is also a sugar factory area road and has already been metalled.

37. *Hassanpur-Sakhuaghat Road.*—The road has been taken up in 1960 and the improvement work is going on. This road also passes through cane-growing area.

District Board Roads.

There are about 901 roads (excluding Local Board roads) under the District Board of Darbhanga out of which 82 miles are metalled, 1,895 miles are unmetalled and 1,642 miles are village roads.

The important roads of the District Board are as follows :—

Name of the roads.

1. Muktapur to Gopalpur.
2. Gopalpur to Hajpura.
3. Gopalpur to Barhetaghat.
4. Pusabazar to Mahamda.
5. Samastipur to Harsinghpur.
6. Simri to Singhwara.

7. Deora to Jale.
8. Jitwarpurghat to Muktapur.
9. Parhetaghat to Tira.
10. Magardehighat to Samastipur.
11. Samastipur to Ujiarpur.
12. Warisnagar to Ratwara.
13. Shahpuroondi to Barunghat.
14. Naorojpur to Muzaffarpur boundary.
15. Harpur Piprapanti to Biswaspur.
16. Biswaspur to Hatimpur.
17. Hatimpur to Madudabad.
18. Kakaraghatti to Hatimpur.
19. Bakri to Bhuskaul.
20. Sagrampur to Tammria.
21. Tammria to Belauncha.
22. Hatti to Singhia thana.
23. Ladauna to Khajauli
24. Kishanpur station to Bhadaoghat.
25. Angarghat to Pataili.
26. Pataili to Ujiarpur.
27. Dalsingsarai to Pinberhanda.
28. Ratras to Purnahi.

The expenditure by the District Board on road on original work in 1959-60 was Rs. 98,000 on *pucca* roads and Rs. 2,12,000 on *kutcha* roads and on village roads was Rs 23,573. Most of the villages of the district still lack a connecting link with the main artery in the neighbourhood. This want affects the movement of the village produce to the primary market. It may, however, be mentioned in this connection that quite a few villages in this district remain waterlocked for the bulk of the year.

Municipal Roads.—The Municipalities of Darbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur and Rusera maintain roads within their municipal areas.

Darbhanga Municipality.—The Darbhanga Municipality maintains 24.26 miles of *katcha*, 56.91 miles of *pucca* and 7.35 miles of tarred

surface roads. The expenditure for the maintenance of the roads is about Rs. 50,000 for the *pucca* and *kutcha* roads. The amount is not adequate and the condition of the roads is not too good. The roads are narrow for the heavy traffic.

Samastipur Municipality.—With the limited financial resources, the municipality is not in a position to maintain the roads satisfactorily. In 1960-61 the total length of black-topping roads was 2 miles 2 furlongs and 395 feet, *kankar* metalled roads 4 miles 7 furlongs and 185 feet and *kutcha* roads 3 furlongs and 410 feet. The roads are not in a good condition generally and are not sufficiently broad for the heavy traffic.

Madhubani Municipality.—The Madhubani Municipality maintains one mile tarred road, 13 miles brick built and 16 miles unmetalled and *kankar* roads. The condition of the unmetalled road is very poor. Due to paucity of income the municipality is not in a position to improve the roads.

Rusera Municipality.—The total length of roads of this municipality was 6.12 miles in 1959-60 out of which 4.4 miles were *kutcha* and 2.8 miles *pucca*. The condition of the roads is poor.

Village roads.—Since the starting of the Gram Panchayats, the construction of roads in the villages has been taken up by some of the Panchayats. The total length of roads constructed by the *Gram Panchayats* was 41 miles in 1959-60 and in the same year the Gram Panchayats also repaired 96 miles old roads. There are also a certain length of village roads in big villages where the *Kutcheries* of big Zamindars existed. The condition of the village roads is extremely poor. The percentage of houses in the villages where a bullock cart can reach is negligible.

As mentioned before very few villages are connected with the main public road. Although the countryside is plain and it is easier to take carts or other vehicles in this district once the crops are cut, it is a problem to take the village produce to the primary markets.

Vehicles and conveyances.—The importance of bullock carts is decreasing in the urban and semi-urban areas due to the development of motor, trucks, cycles and bus services. But still they are indispensable in places where trucks cannot go and their number is on the increase. The only improvement noticeable in bullock carts is the use of rubber tyred wheels in place of wooden wheels. But such better type bullock carts are very few. During the rainy season these bullock carts fix up a covering of rainproof frames of bamboos and mattings. The actual number of bullock carts could not be ascertained. The number given below is only

approximate and the actual number is much larger even in the municipal towns.

The number of bicycles is increasing rapidly. It is considered the poor men's car and now the lower middle class men have also been going in for cycles in a large number.

Another mode of conveyance is a two-wheeled vehicle drawn by one horse called *tamtam*. Four-wheeled horse drawn carriage is also declining in favour of cycles, cycle rickshaws, *tamtams* and taxis. It is a notorious fact that many of the vehicles are not registered.

The following statement will show the number of different vehicles which were registered during 1960-61 :—

Name of Municipality.	Cycles.	Rickshaws.	Bullock carts.	Tamtams.
1. Darbhanga Municipality ..	1,395	1,050	325	144
2. Madhubani Municipality ..	2,000	300	200	25
3. Samastipur Municipality ..	660	246	[illegible]	7
4. Rusera Municipality ..	655	[illegible]	1,592	7

Besides municipalities, the District Board also registers bullock carts for area outside the jurisdiction of the municipalities. The statement below shows the different types of bullock carts registered in the District Board during 1960-61 :—

Name of places.	Description of bullock carts.		
	Agricultural.	Business.	Tyre.
1. Jhanjharpur	935	490	98
2. Khajauli	2,313	768	3
3. Madhubani	5,076	662	141
4. Phulparas	1,031	1,629	110
5. Madhepur . ..	138	82	10
6. Bahera	200	73	2
7. Laukahi	224	1,080	Nil
8. Laukaha	465	459	16
9. Jaynagar	1,497	1,220	5
10. Ladania	410	1,045	4
11. Benipatti	1,668	475	30
12. Harlakhi	204	327	30
13. Madhwapur	273	273	36
14. Sadar-east	2,264	928	96
15. Sadar-west	618	562	111
16. Kamtaul	921	801	28

There is no doubt that a large number of bullock carts plies without any registration.

Dolis and *palkis* are on the decline. Passengers in *dolis* and *palkis* have to be carried by bearers and it is extremely difficult and expensive to get bearers now to carry *dolis* or *palkis*. In the villages, however, they are still in use to some extent particularly for transporting ladies and brides.

Elephants used to be the favourite conveyance for the richer section in this riverine district. The incidence of the use of horses and ponnies was lower than what used to be in the districts south of Ganga. But now the number of elephants and horses has been on the decline and very few can afford to keep these animals for use as conveyances.

Public Transport.

With the introduction of buses and trucks, public and private, it was felt necessary that there should be a transport authority to ensure careful planning, control and a proper development of the transport system. There is no separate combined Highways Department at State level but there are Regional Transport Authorities with a State Road Transport Authority with Patna as headquarters. The North Bihar Regional Transport Authority was established in 1940 with its headquarters at Muzaffarpur and the jurisdiction of this authority is over the four districts in Tirhut Division. The Commissioner of Tirhut Division is the statutory Chairman of the body and the first few Secretaries, namely, Messrs. R. C. Sahay, Mahabir Prasad, A. M.A. Moid, Jamuna Prasad and P. C. Roy Chaudhury combined the work along with their official assignments of Personal Assistant to the Divisional Commissioner. Since then a separate whole-time Secretary has been made available as it was felt that work had become far too extensive to be done by a part-time Secretary.

The first permanent permits were allowed in 1940 to one Kripal Singh of Laheriasarai to run a passenger bus from Laheriasarai to Madhubani and to one Harendra Singh for covering the route Laheriasarai to Supaul.

Along with the development of roadways there has been an extension of the bus services. At the end of 1961 the main routes covered by passengers were as follows :—

Serial no.	Name of route.	Route mileage.	No. of bus services.
1	Laheriasarai-Singhwara (Madhubani Subdivision) Bhauwara (Madhubani Subdivision). ..	20	4
2	Laheriasarai-Jaynagar (Madhubani Subdivision) ..	40	9
3	Laheriasarai-Rohika (Madhubani Sub.)-Madhubani..	22	2

Serial no.	Name of route.	Route mileage.	No. of bus service.
4	Laheriasarai-Rohika-Kaluahi (Madhubani Subdivision)	28	1
5	Laheriasarai-Rohika-Benipatti (Madhubani Sub.) ..	31	2
6	Laheriasarai-Harlakhi *via* Rohika	43	2
7	Madhubani-Harlakhi-Basopatti *via* Benipatti ..	35	1
8	Laheriasarai-Sakri (Madhubani Sub.) to Bahera (Sadar Sub.) *via* Benipur *Anchal*.	36	1
9	Laheriasarai-Sakri-Bahera	26	1
10	Laheriasarai-Supaul (Madhubani Sub.) *via* Sakri and Bahera	42	7
11	Laheriasarai-Nawada *via* Bahera and Majhwara ..	28	2
12	Laheriasarai-Lohat Sugar Mills (Madhubani Sub.) ..	23	1
13	Laheriasarai-Pipraghat (Sadar Subdivision.) ..	42	2
14	Jhanjharpur-Khutauna (Madhubani Subdivision) ..	16	1
15	Samastipur-Sahpurpatory *via* Raghunathpur (Samastipur Subdivision).	24	3
16	Samastipur-Sahpurpatory *via* Hatarhat and Raghunathpur.	24	1
17	Samastipur Narghoghi-Mohaddinagar (Samastipur .. Subdivision).	23	2
18	Samastipur-Tajpur-Pusabazar (Samastipur Subdivision)	22	11

There are also certain services whose one end is within Darbhanga district and the other end is in another district.

The following are some of such routes :—

Serial no.	Name of the routes.	Route mileage.	No. of bus services.
1	Jaynagar-Pahaleja ghat *via* Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga and Madhubani.	133	8
2	Jaynagar-Muzaffarpur *via* Darbhanga and Laheriasarai	63	2
3	Rohika (Madhubani Sub.)-Muzaffarpur *via* Darbhanga.	70	1
4	Sakri (Madhubani Sub.)—Muzaffarpur *via* Darbhanga	64	1
5	Samastipur-Muzaffarpur	42	3
6	Darbhanga-Muzaffarpur	38	6
7	Samastipur-Hajipur	52	2
8	Samastipur-Hajipur-Pahlesaghat	40	1
9	Samastipur-Rajpur-Hajipur	38	2

Some of these buses are very well patronised by the travelling public and are often seen carrying an overload. It is understood that about 400 passengers travel from Jaynagar to Pahlezaghat and *vice versa* every day. The route mileage of this service is about 133 miles which is the longest in Darbhanga district. Samastipur is another very important centre for roadways passenger traffic. Near about 800 persons travel from Samastipur by buses to a number of places like Madhubani, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Hajipur and almost the same number of persons come to Samastipur from different places. Darbhanga and Laheriasarai send out about 1,500 persons every day by buses and almost the same number come to Laheriasarai and Darbhanga. Madhubani registers an outflow of about 1,000 persons per day and receives about 600 persons from other places.

There has not yet been any nationalisation of the bus routes in North Bihar (1962). The roadways transport by passenger buses in Darbhanga district is entirely within private sector (1961). The North Bihar Regional Transport Authority works under the Transport Department of the Government of Bihar. The N.B.R. T.A. consists of the Chairman and the Secretary and a number of officials and non-officials nominated by the State Government. The Board is changed from time to time. Permits are granted in ordinary meetings of the authority. There are rules and regulations under which such permits are allowed. The licensees have to work within the rules and regulations of the Transport Authority and under Motor Vehicles Act, 1937. The Chairman has certain powers by statute or by conversion when the Authority is not in sessions.

So far as the rate is concerned the minimum rate fares for stage carriages have been fixed by the State Government applicable throughout the State of Bihar. Temporary permits are granted by the N.B.R.T.A. under section 62 of the Motor Vehicles Act to meet any temporary or special needs. Mostly these permits are granted under reciprocal agreements within the neighbouring State or the neighbouring Regional Transport Authorities of Bihar. In cases where no reciprocal arrangements exist, prior concurrence is obtained.

As regards appeals, there is an Appeal Board of the State Transport Authority. This Board consists of the Chairman who is usually the member of the Board of Revenue and two other members that are nominated by the State Government.

Motor trucks both private and public have already become an important link for communication and the development of trade and commerce. Perishable goods like fish, chillies, surgarcane, cotton goods, textiles, etc., besides the village produce are often carried by the trucks from point to point. The development of

roads in this district is partially due to the excellent service rendered by the trucks for transport of stone chips, rods, cement, etc.

There are 88 registered trucks in Darbhanga district which are permitted to carry goods from Darbhanga district to other districts of Bihar (1961). The permanent permits within Tirhut Division are given to the trucks by North Bihar Regional Transport Authority. Temporary permits for 5 to 10 days are also given by N.B.R.T.A. to other parts of India under a reciprocal arrangement. It is understood that by the end of 1961 there were 128 registered trucks of Champaran, 185 trucks of Saran and 401 trucks of Muzaffarpur. A number of unspecified number of trucks registered in the neighbouring States of West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh have also been operating in Darbhanga district. The two most important roads for truck traffic are Pahlezaghat-Jaynagar and Samastipur-Madhubani road. A smaller number of trucks regularly ply on the other routes mentioned elsewhere which are covered by passenger buses.

The average tonnage of goods carried by trucks is about 5 to 6 hundred tons daily. About 100 maunds of goods is carried by trucks at the rate of 75 nP. per mile. The load capacity of the trucks has been fixed by the Regional Transport Authority at 100 maunds.

The following statement shows the number of different types of vehicles on road which were registered new in Darbhanga district:—

Year.	Motor cars and jeeps.	Buses.	Trucks.	Motor-cycles.	Auto-rickshaws.	Tractors and trailers.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1956 .. .	20	4	2	17	Nil	5
1957, ...	22	3	6	13	Nil	9
1958	13	8	1	14	Nil	4
1959 . ..	17	9	6	13	Nil	3
1960	22	4	12	12	Nil	3
1961 (up to 3rd September 1961).	37	3	5	15	Nil	1

At the and of 1961 there were 82 motor cycles, 88 trucks, 32 buses, 197 motor cars, 116 jeeps, and 11 tractors in this district.

The licensing of drivers and conductors is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Police. He is assisted by a part-time Deputy

Superintendent of Police. Driving licences are expected to be granted after necessary tests and verification of character' and antecedents and after production of a medical certificate of fitness. The following tables will show the total number of licences both private and professional issued during 1958-59 to 1960-61 :—

TABLE I

Year.	New.			Renewed.		
	Total no. of licences.	Private.	Professional.	Total no. of licences.	Private.	Professional.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1958-59 ..	57	..	29	275	32	243
1959-60 ..	102	47	55	61	16	45
1960-61 ..	148	47	101	638	227	411

TABLE II

Statement showing the number of learners' licences issued during 1958-59 to 1960-61 as compared with the figures of previous years.

1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959-60.	1960-61.
126	116	134	219	233

TABLE III

Statement showing the number of conductors' licences in the district during 1958-59 to 1960-61.

Year.	Issued.	Renewed.	Suspended.	Cancelled.
1958-59	6	21	..	..
1959-60	16	13	..	..
1960-61	15	33	..	..

TABLE IV

Statement showing the total number of motor vehicles offences prosecuted in Darbhanga district during 1958-59 to 1960-61.

Year.	No. of cases prosecuted.			No. of cases acquitted.			No. of cases convicted.		
	Police.	M.S.	Total.	Police.	M.S.	Total.	Police.	M.S.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1958-59 ..	110	23	133	5	..	5	6	1	7
1959-60 ..	144	58	202	57	13	70	237	95	332
1960-61 ..	227	63	290	25	2	27	121	8	129

TABLE V

Statement showing the number of motor vehicles accidents in Darbhanga district during 1956 to 1961 (up to October).

1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.	1961 (up to October).
1	2	3	4	5	6
31	33	27	18	37	34

CONTROL OF TRAFFIC

The control of traffic is exercised exclusively by the Police Department. Special checkings with the help of Magistrates are occasionally organised by the Superintendent of Police of the district during which a number of cases of overloading, plying of vehicles without permit, violation of conditions of permits and transport of passengers on goods vehicles, etc., are detected. The offenders are summarily tried.

With the increase of diesel motor vehicles on road, cases of overloading of goods trucks are increasing tremendously and the drivers evidently at the instance of the owners, commit major offences like over speeding, rash driving, etc., which result in some major accidents. The sting of checking by mobile staff is much lost as the disposal of the prosecutions is much delayed. In order to ensure effective action against such offenders, the District

Magistrate is requested by the State Government to depute a Magistrate with powers to take cognizance each month on the date to be fixed in consultation with the mobile squad for spot trial of motor vehicle case. The main cause of motor accidents are rash and negligent driving, faults of the pedestrians, bad driving, dazzling head light, overloading, stray animals crossing the road, defective vehicles, non-compliance of traffic regulation and tendency on the part of drivers to overtake other vehicles by excessive speeding, etc. Ways and means to minimise road accidents and improve traffic conditions engage the attention of the State Government but the incidence of accidents is on the increase. Some of the private car-owners also love speeding on the narrow roads oblivious of traffic obligations. Motor vehicles have also been used for smuggling of non-duty paid *ganja*.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 74 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (Act IV of 1939), and in supersession of all previous notifications on the subject, the Governor of Bihar has been pleased to lay down that no motor vehicles whether registered in the State of Bihar or in any other State, the unladen weight of which plus its load together exceeds 14,500 lbs. shall ply on any road in Bihar except on routes specified when the actual total weight of motor vehicle and its load may exceed 14,500 lbs. but shall not exceed 19,000lbs.

This is subject to such restrictions to speed, etc., as are imposed in the interest of public safety by the Public Works Department from time to time in regard to particular bridges and culverts.

The following are the roads which are capable of taking 19,000 lbs. laden weight in Darbhanga district :—

(1) Darbhanga—Samastipur Road (11 to 25 miles).

(2) Dholi—Kalyanpur Road.

(3) Darbhanga—Kalyanpur Road.

(4) Darbhanga—Sakri Road.

(5) Sakri—Bahera Road.

Railways.—Railway communication has been described by O' Malley in the last Gazetteer as follows :—

"The district is on the whole, well provided with railway communication. Its south-west corner is traversed for 29 miles by the main line of the Bengal and North-Western Railway, which enters the district just below Dalsingsarai and runs through Samastipur to Waini and it also contains 25 miles of the chord line from Hajipur to Bachwara, which runs parallel to the Ganges embankment from east to west. From Samastipur a line runs to Darbhanga and there branches off in two directions, the first north-west to

Sitamarhi through Kamtaul and Jogiara, and the other due east to Khanwaghat on the Kosi. The total length of these lines within the district is 146 miles; and another line running from Sakri to Jaynagar on the Nepal frontier has recently been opened. This line, the earthwork of which was mostly completed as a relief work in the famine of 1897, has opened up a tract which was previously remote from the railway; it passes the important town of Madhubani and taps a large grain supply from Nepal. The construction of a direct line from Darbhanga to Muzaffarpur with a branch line to Sitamarhi has also been sanctioned."*

There has been some extension of railway communication in this district. The name of the North-Western Railway was changed to O.T. Railway (Oudh-Tirhut Railway) and because of the slow locomotion over this system the railway came to be known as the Old and Tired Railway. Now the system is known as North Eastern Railway. The railway system in this district had metre-gauge only. In 1961 a broad-gauge line has been constructed from Samastipur to Barauni (51 Kilometres) in addition to the metre-gauge line which was there from before. This broad-gauge section was opened in January, 1962. The Railways in this district have a great importance and future because of the proximity of Nepal and the development of roadways throwing open the distant parts of the district.

A metre-gauge railway system has its own difficulties and goods cannot be hauled very quickly. The passenger traffic in this area is abnormally high and roof riding without tickets was quite a common feature before and is still seen whenever there are any *melas* in North Bihar. The district being riverine there are a large number of railway culverts and bridges and any expansion of the railway is quite an expensive affair. In spite of all these difficulties the railway administration after Independence has made great strides and has improved many of the sections, has opened a number of new stations to facilitate goods and passengers traffic and the Railway Divisional headquarters at Samastipur has had a great development. The railway in this district have a special importance bringing Nepal nearer India and carrying on a rich inter-country trade and commerce. They also connect the fertile areas of Muzaffarpur and Champaran districts.

There are 33 railway stations in this district under the jurisdiction of the District Traffic Superintendent, Samastipur. These are divided into 7 sections as follows :—

Sections.	Name of the stations.	Distance.
		Kilometres.
.. Samastipur—Barauni Junction ..	Samastipur, Ujiarpur, Najirganj, and Dalsingsarai.	24

*District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907), pp. 111-112.

Sections.	Name of the stations.	Distance.
		Kilometres.
2. Samastipur—Khagaria	.. Angarghat, Narhan, Ruseraghat, Nayanagar and Hasanpur Road.	46
3. Samastipur—Muzaffarpur	.. Pitaunjhia and Pusa road ..	14
4. Samastipur—Darbhanga	.. Muktapur, Kishanpur, Rambhadrapur, Hayaghat, Thalwara, Laheriasarai and Darbhanga.	38
5. Darbhanga—Nirmali	.. Kakarghatti, Tarsarai, Sakri, Lohna Road, Jhanjharpur, Tamuria and Ghoghardiha.	60
6. Sakri—Jaynagar	.. Pandaul, Madhubani, Rajnagar, Khajauli and Jaynagar.	48.67
7. Darbhanga—Narkatiaganj	.. Mohammadpur, Kamtaul and Jogiara.	36.41

Besides these thirty-three stations there are 3 stations, namely, Shahpurpatori, Mohiuddinagar and Vidyapatinagar of this district which are under the jurisdiction of the District Traffic Superintendent, Sonepur. The distance from Shahpurpatori station to Vidyapatinagar station is 22.34 kilometres. There is no engine shed on these three stations and about 50 men are employed on these three stations.

Passengers and goods traffic.—The outward and inward traffic, of goods and passengers dealt with at Darbhanga, Laheriasarai Samastipur, Madhubani, Jaynagar, Jhanjharpur and Jogiara, etc., stations is given below which will show the volume of traffic handled. The figures have been supplied by the office of the District Traffic Superintendent, N.E. Railway, Samastipur.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE AVERAGE MONTHLY PASSENGERS, PARCELS AND GOODS, DEALT AT IMPORTANT STATIONS DURING 1956-57.

Name of stations	Monthly average passengers		Monthly average income		Monthly average goods		Monthly average earnings	
	Inward	Outward	Passenger	Parcel	Inward	Outward	Inward	Outward
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			Rs.	Rs.	Mds.	Mds.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Dalsingsarai	9,520	31,920	25,000	2,745	36,216	23,824	36,928	17,797
2. Ujiarpur	6,348	10,009	5,363	1,280	500	2,437	251	3,635
3. Samastipur	75,000	94,500	88,600	12,500	2,12,917	20,048	1,80,166	10,656
4. Pusa Road	17,812	30,008	26,660	2,759	24,847	37,341	16,850	16,735
5. Muktapur	2,675	2,868	1,571	975	45,032	19,484	13,966	43,009
6. Kisharpur	10,135	15,899	8,211	501	6,097	6,183	1,531	1,791
7. Hayaghat	9,661	11,617	10,538	224	2,506	1,447	592	2,455
8. Laheriasarai	42,397	47,214	59,935	10,944	73,474	23,899	35,673	5,248
9. Darbhanga	49,160	75,372	1,09,967	17,728	2,78,159	40,673	1,20,945	29,509
10. Mohammadpur	8,215	9,399	8,638	149	200	100	125	175
11. Kamtaul	12,840	16,530	22,540	1,835	490	420	290	670
12. Jogiara	7,052	7,308	9,875	100	30	120	160	200
13. Tarsarai	3,834	9,409	4,333	134	30,987	33,765	26,374	38,019

STATEMENT SHOWING THE AVERAGE MONTHLY PASSENGERS, PARCELS AND GOODS DEALT AT IMPORTANT STATIONS DURING 1956-57—*concld.*

Name of station	Monthly average passengers		Monthly average income		Monthly average goods		Monthly average earnings	
	Inward	Outward	Passenger	Parcel	Inward	Outward	Inward	Outward
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			Rs.	Rs.	Mds.	Mds.	Rs.	Rs.
14. Sakri	49,334	51,477	50,960	1,878	27,946	9,293	34,561	9,903
15. Pandaul	7,415	7,482	6,631	807	1,608	16,800	1,454	2,100
16. Madhubani	19,635	30,302	26,119	4,552	65,234	21,068	70,603	6,746
17. Rajnagar	11,985	15,777	10,359	337	890	700	2,201	1,360
18. Khajauli	4,565	5,120	3,160	210	150	500	200	500
19. Jaynagar	6,446	17,122	24,802	6,098	3,543	4,627	6,192	9,571
20. Manigachi	6,893	7,089	6,379	224	661	1,477	282	244
21. Lohna Road	3,377	4,523	4,131	55	20	5,000	10	3,000
22. Jhanjharpur	7,260	14,475	12,802	1,570	30,655	32,247	31,182	11,575
23. Tamuria	3,267	6,482	6,174	396	150	400	200	500
24. Ghoghardiha	3,558	4,062	5,541	1,262	7,569	16,270	2,275	16,057

STATEMENT SHOWING FIGURES OF AVERAGE MONTHLY PASSENGERS, PARCELS AND GOODS TRAFFIC AT IMPORTANT STATIONS AS PER POSITION IN THE YEAR 1960-61.

Name of stations	Average monthly traffic dealt with.	Average earning from passenger traffic per month	Average goods traffic dealt with per month.		Average earnings per month from goods traffic	Average parcel traffic dealt with per month.		Average earning per month from parcel traffic
			Inward	Outward		Inward	Outward	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Rs.			Rs.			Rs.
1. Darbhanga	1,38,597	1,11,441	2,43,686 Mds.	62,210 Mds.	1,51,497	10,350 Mds.	3,200 Mds.	16,750
2. Laheriasarai	22,217	25,015	21,743 K.G.	1,275 K.G.	44,633	90,000 K.G.	30,000 K.G.	9,000
3. Samastipur	1,49,846	1,60,479	41,250 Quintals	14,950 Quintals	1,12,928	1,580 Quintals	3,657 Quintals	23,883
4. Madhubani	36,064	27,250	59,355 Mds.	45,540 Mds.	52,531	16,340 Mds.	10,250 Mds.	8,438
5. Jaynagar ..	16,905	32,505	97,923 ,,	99,735 ,,	90,880	1,500 ,,	500 ,,	4,975
6. Jhanjharpur	8,119	13,163	28,775 ,,	73,082 ,,	45,260	991 ,,	208 ,,	2,621
7. Jogiara ..	12,000	11,700	2,000 ,,	2,000 ,,	5,000	60 ,,	60 ,,	200
8. Sahpurpatori	17,709	26,894	520 Quintals	3,568 Quintals	16,754	70 Quintals	200 Quintals	700

The outward goods and parcel traffic consist of mainly grains, soap, iron goods, *ghee, khadi* cloth, mangoes, hides, tobacco, chillies, etc., and inward traffic consists of medicine, radio sets, petroleum and kerosene oil, etc.

The outward traffic in grain and hides and skin is mainly directed to Calcutta and Kanpur. There is also a large traffic to places within the district.

As regards trade with Nepal, Kerosene oil, coal, cement, cigarette, chillies, medicine, stationery goods are exported to Nepal from Jaynagar station. From Nepal, hides rice, jute and country herbs are exported to Darbhanga and other districts of Bihar.

Engine shed.—So far as engine shed is concerned, there are two engine sheds in this district, one at Samastipur and another at Darbhanga. There are about one thousand railway quarters for the staff, constructed by the railway in this district. Besides, there is also a fairly well-equipped railway hospital at Samastipur to look after the health of the staff. There is a District Medical Officer with a staff and the hospital has a clean outlook.

The statement will show the number of different type of engines and number of staff who are engaged in Loco shed and workshop :—

	YP.	YG.	WD.	P.	PM.	RC.	RS.	YL.	F.	T.	Total.
Samastipur	15	18	6	4	..	..	..	9	1	..	53
Darbhanga	..	..	..	11	..	..	15	..	..	1	27

STAFF POSITION

Station.	DME's office.	Work-shop.	Loco shed. Running staff.	Loco shed. Maintenance and others.	C & W staff.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Samastipur ..	81	821	312	504	158	1,876
Darbhanga ..	..	..	139	210	49	398
				Total	..	2,274

Workshop, Samastipur.—There is a railway workshop at Samastipur which was established in 1881 for repairing of carriages, wagons and engines, etc. The constituent shops have since far outgrown their original size and have been remodelled to meet the modern need of an industrial concern.

There are 18 workshops under the railway workshops. Their names and space are given below :—

Name of the shop.	Space in square feet.
1. Machine shop	13,300
2. Foundry shop	6,024
3. Erecting shop	5,820
4. Carriage and repair shop	5,820
5. Paint shop	5,820
6. Cobbler shop	1,110
7. Saw mill shop	4,620
8. Blacksmith shop	5,520
9. Mill Wright shop	2,397
10. Spring shop	6,251
11. Motion shop	2,744
12. Copper shop	1,056
13. Tinsmith shop	330
14. Brass shop	627
15. Pattern shop	216
16. Wheel shop	2,500
17. Wagon shop	Not available.
18. Wheel shop .. track of 140 feet long in open space.	

There are 18 shops which are covered except the wheel shop. The periodical and intermediate repairs of locomotives are carred out by the Erecting shop. The motive power for running the entire series of components is supplied by the railways own electtric power house

There are 821 men employed in the workshop. The wages paid to the manual workers vary from Rs. 80 to Rs. 180 a month.

In the workshop, hand trollies are utilised for transport of materials from one shop to another. There is one pick up provided for use amongst stores and mechanical department. This workshop deals with periodical overhaul of wagons of Samastipur district.

Rail-road Competition and Regulation of Transport

As has been rightly observed, transport and communications are essential economic overheads and must always go ahead of industrial development. In Bihar generally and in Darbhanga district particularly transport development is confronted with a series of complex problems. There are two different railway gauges. There are still sections in this district where the railway lines could be laid but there are wide and unbridged river and floods There is lack of suitable road-metal in the vicinity of the district which acts as an impediment to road development. At present Laheriasarai on one side is connected by railway only from Samastipur railway station. The railway lines could easily be laid connecting Laheriasarai to Muzaffarpur direct which will avoid Samastipur and this will cut out time and distance. As a matter of fact, this project was under contemplation but it is now abandoned. The repeated floods in Darbhanga district would rather indicate that the railway

culverts probably do not allow sufficient outlet for the rain water or the overflow of the river. The completion of the Mokameh bridge has been a great achievement and North and South Bihar have been brought much closer. Now from Patna, the capital of the State one can easily motor to practically all the districts of North Bihar excepting to Purnea. Laheriasarai is within 6 or 7 hours motoring distance now from Patna, a journey by steamer and rail before would have meant about 10 to 12 hours. The development of Barauni adjoining Darbhanga district as a thermal power station and as a seat of the refineries will mean a simultaneous development of Darbhanga district which will have to rush some of the produce for the growing population in Barauni.

The roadways have been separately treated. It will take still quite some time to reach the objective laid down by the Nagpur Planners (1943) that no village in an agricultural area should remain more than 5 miles from the main road and that no village in non-agricultural area should be more than 20 miles from the main road. Many of the villages in Darbhanga district remain water-logged for more than 9 months in the year and the local roads are far behind the National Highways standards. Bullock carts still remain the most widely used transport vehicles on the roads in the rural areas. But even the bullock carts require more and better rural roads. It goes without saying that within a radius of 10 to 15 miles around the villages, bullock carts continue to be the cheapest transport and will not be replaced by motor vehicles for a pretty long time to come.

Darbhanga district has no nationalised bus services. But with the completion of Mokameh bridge known as Rajendra *Pul* the nationalisation of the road services is bound to be taken up sooner or later as nationalisation is a State policy. Passenger transport is still in the hands of private individuals or private companies and some of them have been particular in using better type buses so that these buses could be made over to the State for sale when nationalisation comes in. The carrier trucks, private or public, have a serious handicap as most of the culverts and the roads are not strong enough for heavy loads. It is a notorious fact that heavily loaded trucks beyond the prescribed limit often ply over such weak culverts and bridges. The proximity of Nepal has an unlimited scope for development in trade and commerce through roadways. Government fixed rates are 75 nP. per lorry load per mile or 2 pies per maund per mile. But these fixed rates are not always followed. West Bengal and Bihar have a reciprocal agreement whereby each State licenses 250 vehicles to one round trip each month with a 15-day trip limit. Some 500 vehicles take loads each way in a month between the two States, moving principally coal from the Dhanbad and Jharia coalfields to Calcutta. Very few of them go towards Darbhanga because of hazards of road journey due to rivers and bad roads. The State Transport

Authority and North Bihar Regional Transport Authority that control roadways passengers and goods traffic have been described separately.

Transport problem has naturally grown with the growth of industrial and agricultural production of the district. It has naturally become more acute with the intensification of each successive Five-Year Plans. The railways and waterways were the principal means of transport in the past and road transport played a very small part in the economy of the district. With the proper maintenance and expansion of road transport in this district, road transport is bound to play a vital part in the economy of the district. Even now a railway journey from Muzaffarpur, the divisional headquarters to Darbhanga, the district headquarters takes about four hours with the possibility of missing connection at Samastipur for Darbhanga. Buses fully loaded with passengers cover the distance between Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga in the course of two to three hours. A large number of buses now (1961) ply on either way between Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur. There is still scope for more passenger buses. Although the road transport in North Bihar is still in the hands of individuals or private companies, it has to be said to their credit that they are not only trying to organise the operation of road transport along somewhat scientific and economic lines but are also trying to raise the standard of service to the public. Some of the buses have good bodies. There are, however, no particular amenities to the travelling public, no proper bus stands or halting places and over-crowding is very common.

It cannot be said any longer that the railways and waterways are the chief means of transport either within the district or from this district to other districts. Roadways have been able to syphon off a considerable percentage of transport of both goods and passengers. As a matter of fact, to cope with the post-war development, motor transport has got to expand even at a greater speed than that of the railways. This is the trend in the U.S.A., U.K. and France where many hundreds of miles of railway lines have been uprooted to make room for road transport on purely economic grounds. If left to the railways as the principal means of transports, the railways will require very heavy initial expenditure to be able to handle the prevailing traffic and the maintenance will be a great problem.

It is understood that road transport handles 56 per cent and railways 44 per cent of the total land transport in Britain, in Italy the share of road transport is as high as 61 per cent and railways 39 per cent, in Australia it is 52 per cent and 48 per cent respectively. There is no such approximate figure for India, Bihar or Darbhanga district at the moment. As the road transport services are in the midst of tremendous developments any such

statistics now would have been welcome but would not be a correct index even after a year. With the nationalisation of the roadways there is bound to be a further expansion of the road traffic if the nationalised services are properly run.

It is now agreed that road transport has to secure a rapidly rising ascendancy because of purely economic advantage that it offers. It is said that road transport is three times as fast as rail transport. It renders service from field or factory direct to the market place, thus avoiding the need for any other supplementary mode of transport. Road transport is free from the incidence of heavy pilferage, damage and delays in claim settlements in railways. Packing charges are lower for road transport. Road transport is specially advantageous for perishable and consumer's goods and gives a quicker turnover. A mile of excellent concrete highway can be built at one-third the cost of a mile of railway line. There is more of human element or at least more of this can be introduced in the road transport services.

The following zones have parallel rail and road connections :—

(1) Samastipur to Darbhanga—Muktapur—Kisanpur—Rambhadrapur—Hayaghat—Thalwara—Laheriasarai and Darbhanga.
(2) Samastipur to Pusa road—Pitanjia and Pusa road.
(3) Darbhanga to Madhubani and Jaynagar—Lohat—Pandaul—Madhubani—Rajnagar—Khajauli and Jaynagar.

The goods carried by trucks are mainly goats, hides, *mukhana*, sugarcane, bricks and stone metal on the outward journey. On the inward journey they carry light parcels, mill-made cloth, *biri* leaves and forest produce excluding timber.

The railways generally carry goods too heavy for carriage by trucks. They also carry such small parcels as answer books, which are never carried by trucks as well as long journey parcels. Vegetables, fruits, namely, mangoes, *makhana* and other perishable goods are sent both by trucks and railways.

There is a keen competition between rail and road transport between places connected both by railways and good roads, for transport by buses and trucks is much quicker with less loss of time than by rail. It will not be incorrect to mention that the apathy and delay in the handling of goods by railways has given an encouragement to the development of roadways and truck traffic. Since the last one decade there has been an enormous expansion of the roads within the district and beyond and naturally there has been a great increase in the number of trucks. There are a number of regular truck services with headquarters in Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur that will reach any consignment to the

destination within a short time. Mangoes from Darbhanga and Laheriasarai are transported to Barauni, Chapra and Sonepur by trucks quicker than the train at a much cheaper cost. The delay in booking parcels at the railway stations and the incidental troubles partially encourage the businesses to patronise the trucks. All these have forced the railway administration to reduce the freight and to run express parcels service.

The railways have their own difficulty as the wagons are limited and the railway tracks have to be used within restrictions. The roads are there for twenty-four hours use. The rail-road competition has not reached any such incidence that it is highly damaging to the other. In a way it may be said that there is ample scope for both railways and roadways to handle traffic goods and passengers. The overcrowding of the passenger trains and the buses in the zones where both systems run indicate that there is ample room for both the systems and possibility of a healthy competition.

As the roads in this district are at present, very heavy trucks cannot operate. If roads are improved along with the culverts and bridges and heavier trucks could be taken, there might have been a greater expansion of road transport in this district connecting Nepal on one side, other parts of Bihar and Bengal on the other side. The neighbouring area ravaged by the Kosi and her branches could only be opened up for the multi-purpose Kosi Project by road transport. It has also to be mentioned that road transport industry gives employment to seven persons in the place where railway employ only one person. This helps the unemployment problem also. The economists have calculated that if there is a well thought out road transport system throughout the country both the Central and State Governments may have all the taxes that they are getting today and much more.

The important long distant roads within the district and the inter-district roads have now got road transport services both for passengers as well as parcel goods. The goods traffic has started quickening up because of the introduction of fast moving trucks. There is a considerable handling of various commodities like chillies, sugarcane, tobacco, consumer's goods, iron goods, cotton goods. etc., by trucks. Tobacco, chillies, turmeric, etc., are sent by trucks to Patna, Calcutta, Dhanbad, Kanpur, etc. The trucks from this district even take commodities, namely, rice, wheat, sugar, coal, tobacco and medicine, etc., to Nepal on one side and far distant Bombay to the other side. Trucks bring back to the district cotton goods, medicine, iron goods and glass goods, etc., from Bombay and Calcutta.

The railway-*cum*-road bridge on the Ganga connecting Mokameh with Barauni has been a boon for road traffic. At the moment

motor vehicles are faced with difficulties for a distance of about 10 miles from Teghra to Dalsingsarai (1961). This small bit is expected to be reconditioned very soon. A car can now cover the distance from Patna to Darbhanga within seven hours or so while the railways take 10 to 12 hours.

Apart from long distance road traffic the urban traffic conditions require a more rational use of vehicles. But here the difficulties are mostly due to narrow roads which are never meant for the heavy traffic that they have to clear now. Not a single town of Darbhanga district like Darbhanga-*cum*-Laheriasarai, Samastipur or Madhubani has the necessary number and alignment of roads for the urban traffic in them. The unsatisfactory and almost uncontrolled urban traffic conditions represent one of the hazards resulting in congestion and danger to the population in towns and their peripheries. The existing roads have now been pressed into and called upon to do a very different job for which they were never planned and designed. Standing on any of the main roads of any of these towns, particularly in Samastipur or Laheriasarai during the peak period of the day and watching the jostling traffic one cannot imagine as to why more road accidents do not take place. A large number of rickshaws driven by absolutely untrained villagers, hand-carts, bullock carts, horse carriages, donkeys, cycles, trucks and buses, not to speak of a teeming floating pedestrian human traffic, contribute to the traffic at this time.

The roads are narrow and often winding and there is no adequate road surface nor much of road courtesy among the pedestrians or the drivers. The problem is that the towns have not been deliberately planned from the earliest stages and have had a lop-sided growth. The drift of rural population in search of employment has added to the problem. Institutions like schools and colleges, amusement centres like cinema houses have been usually allowed to open by the side of congested road and that has added to the problem. There is not much of traffic control as it is just not possible to do much of it under the existing circumstances.

There is no scientific zoning rules in the town and haphazard peripheral expansion of the town without proper roads add to the traffic clogging the main roads. There is just a few important roads and peculiarly enough shops of different types, institutions, amusement centres, practically whatever counts in the town as a centre of attraction etc., are all sited in the same locality. At the top of that, most of these important roads are also part of the inter-district long distance traffic arteries.

The roads of the town are the responsibility of usually financially handicapped municipal bodies. The roads had handicaps from before especially in regard to the width, surface, geometric design, gradients, sight distances, width of curves and pavements, medians,

shoulders, provision for traffic interchange, parking places, poor alignment and other physical handicaps like narrow culverts. The handicaps have increased many times. Such roads were never meant for the present day heavy traffic and that makes the task all the more urgent. Highways stimulate development in the towns but the highways as they are in the towns at the moment have almost reached a condition saturated with the incidence of danger. The traffic cleared by the railways at the railway stations of the towns contribute to that incidence.

Waterways and ferries.—Rivers were the chief means of communication before the introduction of the railways. The "Statistical Reporter" for August, 1876 mentioned that the principal rivers as means of communication in Tirhut were the great Gandak, the Baghmati and the Burhi Gandak. The rivers carried the produce of Eastern Tirhut to Calcutta. These rivers were, however, mostly navigable during the rainy season.

The report further mentioned that the Baghmati flowed into the Burhi Gandak above Rusera and the river was navigable only during two months of the year as far as Darbhanga, for boats of 500 maunds.

According to this report the navigation in the Burhi Gandak was in great demand because of four markets important for grains and oil-seeds, etc. They were, in order, Khagaria in Monghyr district near the river's confluence with the Ganga, Rusera, Samastipur and lastly Muzaffarpur.

Mr. J.H. Kerr, I.C.S., mentions that "The Burhi Gandak river is navigable for boats of 1,000 maunds burden at all seasons of the year, but its boat traffic has much decreased since the opening of the railway. Boats of 400 or 500 maunds can pass up the Baghmati except in a very dry season. The other rivers in the district are navigable in the rainy season only, and are not much used even then owing to their liability to floods."*

O'Malley in the last Gazetteer mentions as follows :—

"The Ganges is navigable for steamers throughout the year, and a daily service which plies up the river from Goalundo calls at Hardaspur in the extreme south-west corner of the Samastipur subdivision. The little Gandak river is navigable for boats of 1,000 maunds burden at all seasons, but its boat traffic has much decreased since the opening of the railway. Boats of 400 or 500 maunds can pass up the Baghmati, except in a very dry season. The other rivers in the district are navigable in the rainy season only, but are not much used even than owing to the liability to

*Final Report on Survey and Settlement Operation in the Darbhanga District, 1896 to 1903 (1904).

floods. The principal ferries are those on the little Gandak and the Baghmati rivers, the most important being at Magardihi Ghat (at Samastipur) and Migia Ghat (at Rusera) on the little Gandak, and at Kalya Ghat and Haya Ghat on the Baghmati." River traffic has lost its previous importance since O'Malley's days.

The river Ganga (Ganges) touches the district at the extreme south-west corner and washes a stretch of about twenty miles of its southern border. Due to the existence of large stretches of shifting sands on the bank, it does not provide any important means of communication and no business centres have sprung up on the bank which is rather sloping and ill defined. The Burhi Gandak which enters the district near Pusa, separates the Warisnagar and Rusera thanas from the rest of the Samastipur subdivision. At the trijunction of the Rusera and Dalsingsarai police-stations of the Darbhanga district and Bariarpur of Monghyr, she suddenly swings southwards skirting the Dalsingsarai police-station, and finally leaves the district at the trijunction of the Dalsingsarai, Bariarpur and Bachwara police-stations. It is navigable throughout the year by small country boats and is an important trade channel and has many markets on its bank. From Ruseraghat chillies are sent to Monghyr, Begusarai and Patna and other places. Just before the Burhi Gandak turns southwards at the junction of the Dalsingsarai and Rusera police-stations, she is met by the Baghmati which also enters the district from the west through the Muzaffarpur district and washes the northern and the eastern borders of the Warisnagar police-station. Baghmati also carried some traffic in small boats. The other rivers deserving mention are the Kamla and the Balan which overflow their banks during the floods causing havoc to the country side, and remain more or less dry during the rest of the year. The north-eastern portions of the district are now liable to floods by the Kosi and large tracts in the area have become waste.

Country boats of different carrying capacity ply on Burhi Gandak, Baghmati and Balan. The Burhi Gandak is navigabe in the rains to above Ruseraghat for boats of 2,000 maunds. The grain trade is principally carried on in boats of 100 maunds and less. Large boats are seldom seen under 100 maunds burthen, size in general use.

Boats of 3,000 and 4,000 maunds burthen are exclusively used for the carriage of slight bulky materials, such as jute, and are never laden with more than 1,500 to 2,000 maunds. But such boats are uncommon on Darbhanga district rivers. In a riverine district like Darbhanga the ferries are important to keep up the traffic both of passengers and goods. Each ferry maintains some boats and the ferries are usually au tioned by the District Board for lease.

The details of the major and minor ferries are given below :—

Name of ghat				Class	No. of boats	Trade carried
Jitwarpur	..	..	..	II	3	Passengers, food-grains and other commodities.
Nagarbasti	..	..	..	II	2	Ditto.
Jhabuni	..	..	..	II	2	Ditto.
Pokhazaira	..	..	..	III	1	Ditto.
Basudeopur	..	..	..	III	1	Ditto.
Rahmalpur	..	..	..	II	1	Ditto.
Saratpur	..	..	..	II	1	Ditto.
Darhia	..	..	..	II	1	Ditto.
Dihuli	..	..	..	II	1	Ditto.
Bhore Jairam	..	..	..	II	1	Ditto.
Satmalpur	..	..	..	II	2	Ditto.
Angar	..	..	..	III	2	Ditto.
Patpara	..	..	..	III	1	Ditto.
Polhua	..	..	..	III	1	Ditto.
Mahe	..	..	..	III	1	Ditto.
Singia	..	..	..	II	2	Ditto.
Chorghatia	..	..	..	III	2	Ditto.
Mahathi	..	..	..	III	2	Ditto.
Rajghat Gonia	..	..	..	II	2	Ditto.
Neari	..	..	..	III	1	Ditto.
Gonia	..	..	.	III	..	Ditto.
Jarjha	..	..	..	II	2	Ditto.
Ledha	..	..	..	III	1	Ditto.
Manovam	..	..	..	III	2	Ditto.
Chechri	..	..	..	III	1	Ditto.
Kankar	..	..	.	II	2	Ditto.
Goga	..	..	..	III	1	Ditto.
Situari	..	..	..	III	1	Ditto.
Sauliman	..	..	.	II	2	Ditto.

Name of ghat	Class	No. of boats	Trade carried
Palli	III	2	Passengers, food-grains and other commodities.
Ranipur	III	1	Ditto.
Ratho	III	1	Ditto.
Janipur	III	1	Ditto.
Damla	III	1	Ditto.
Kaulabari	III	1	Ditto.
Bainjun Bella	III	1	Ditto.
Rajghat Hemanpur	II	2	Ditto.
Arrai	III	1	Ditto.
Chaksaho	III	2	Ditto.
Hemanpur	III	1	Ditto.
Barhouna	III	1	Ditto.
Morun	III	..	Ditto.
Sikatia	III	..	Ditto.
Sahorwa	III	2	Ditto.
Narainpur	III	..	Ditto.
Gaipura	III	1	Ditto.
Ranipur	III	1	Ditto.
Bariahi	II	..	Ditto.
Boran	III	1	Ditto.
Chakwagundar	III	2	Ditto.
Bahjopur	III	1	Ditto.
Mushari	III	1	Ditto.
Sadipur	III	1	Ditto.
Hasanpur	III	1	Ditto.
Manjiari	III	1	Ditto.
Muradpur	III	1	Ditto.
Kharari	III	2	Ditto.
Hathouri	II	1	Ditto.
Rupouli	III	..	Ditto.

Name of ghat	Class	No. of boats	Trade carried
Bela	III	2	Passengers, food-grains and other commodities.
Khaira Math	III	1	Ditto.
Jribhuan Mahihan	III	1	Ditto.
Manpura	III	1	Ditto.
Saidpur	III	1	Ditto.
Mahwan	III	..	Ditto.
Akarahar	III	1	Ditto.
Sahai	III	2	Ditto.
Balan	III	2	Ditto.
Balha	III	1	Ditto.
Birauli	III	1	Ditto.
Madhurapur	III	1	Ditto.
Jagatpur	III	2	Ditto.
Khajouli	III	1	Ditto.
Bela	III	1	Ditto.
Bhakua	III	1	Ditto.
Hatha Kalanjor	III	2	Ditto.
Kalaunjar	III	1	Ditto.
Phulia	III	1	Ditto.
Namapur	III	1	Ditto.
Saidpur	III	1	Ditto.
Agar	III	1	Ditto.
Hayaghat	III	1	Ditto.
Akasha	III	1	Ditto
Kailakhund	III	1	Ditto.
Ratwara	III	1	Ditto.
Ganj	III	2	Ditto.
Trimohan .. - ..	III	1	Ditto.
Gopalpur	III	1	Ditto.
Ladh	III	1	Ditto.

Name of ghat	Class	No. of boats	Trade carried
Madhopatti	III	1	Passenger, food-grains and other commodities.
Tektu	III	1	Ditto.
Sirhanki	III	1	Ditto.
Harsinghpur	III	2	Ditto.
Larauah	III	2	Ditto.
Khesarha	III	1	Ditto.
Motipur	II	2	Ditto.
Panchi	III	2	Ditto.
Dhonja	III	1	Ditto.
Kharag	III	1	Ditto.
Ladho	III	2	Ditto.
Garhsissai	III	1	Ditto.
Sheora	III	1	Ditto.
Hardia	III	1	Ditto.
Shambha	III	1	Ditto.
Rupauli	III	1	Ditto.
Sonkanhai	III	1	Ditto.
Chakmohri	III	1	Ditto.
Gorhari	III	1	Ditto.
Gidrahi	III	1	Ditto.
Buriha Mahadeo Asthan	..	1	Ditto.
Katai	III	1	Ditto.
Jetuaha	III	1	Ditto.
Kanta	III	1	Ditto.

The following statement shows the rate of tolls levied at the ferries classwise in this district :—

Serial no.	Specification of items	Class II specification of tolls			Class III specification of tolls		
		Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
1	For each person	0	1	0	0	0	6
2	For each person if carrying a load or *bahangy* ..	0	2	0	0	1	0
3	*Palki*, with 8 bearers and traveller	0	8	0	0	6	0
4	*Palki*, with 8 bearers and empty ..	0	6	0	0	3	0

Serial no.	Specification of items	Class II specification of tolls			Class III specification of tolls		
		Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
5	*Palki*, with 6 bearers and traveller	0	8	0	0	4	0
6	*Palki*, with 6 bearers, empty	0	4	0	0	2	0
7	*Doli*, with 4 bearers and traveller	0	6	0	0	3	0
8	*Doli*, with 4 bearers, empty	0	3	0	0	1	6
9	*Doli*, with 2 bearers and traveller	0	3	0	0	1	6
10	*Doli*, with 2 bearers, empty	0	2	0	0	1	6
11	*Ekka*, *Tamtum*, *Rath*, *Majholi* or *Shampani* with or without spring with single bullock or pony.	0	6	0	0	3	0
12	*Ekka*, *Tamtum*, *Rath* *Majholi* or *Shampani* with a pair of bullocks or pony.	0	8	0	0	4	0
13	*Buggy* (four-wheeled vehicle) drawn by a horse or one or two bullocks with traveller and *Sayees*.	1	0	0	0	8	0
14	Four-wheeled carriage on spring, drawn by two horses, with traveller and servants.	2	0	0	1	8	0
15	Hackney with a pair of bullocks laden (or four passengers only including cartman).	0	6	0	0	3	0
16	Hackney with a pair of bullocks, empty ..	0	3	0	0	1	6
17	Hackney with motor tyred (laden)	0	8	0	0	8	0
18	Hackney with motor tyred (empty) .. .	0	4	0	0	4	0
19	Bullocks, cows or buffaloes in droves (per score) ..	0	8	0	0	4	0
20	Bullocks, cows or buffaloes in droves if less than one score (each).	0	0	6	0	0	3
21	Ditto in not droves ..	0	1	0	0	0	6
22	Sheep, goats or such like animals in droves (per score)	0	6	0	0	3	0
23	Horse with rider or *Sayees* or both	0	4	0	0	2	0
24	Pony with rider or *Sayees* or both	0	3	0	0	1	6
25	Ass or mule, laden and with driver	0	3	0	0	1	6
26	Ass or mule unladen with driver	0	1	6	0	0	9
27	Camel with driver	0	8	0	0	6	0
28	Elephant with *Gaddi* or *Howdah*	0	8	0	0	4	0
29	Cycle with rider	0	2	0	0	2	0
30	Motor cycle with side car and travellers ..	1	0	0	0	12	0
31	Motor cycle without side car and with traveller ..	0	12	0	0	8	0
32	Motor car with or without traveller	2	0	0	1	8	0
33	Motor lorry (1 ton)	4	0	0	3	0	0
34	Motor lorry (½ ton)	3	0	0	2	0	0

So far as exemption is concerned, tolls are not to be charged or demanded for ferrying over the following :—

(1) All Government Mail, cart and dak runners.

(2) All Commissariat stores, animals and vehicles when accompanied by a chalan from the Commissariat Officers.

(3) All Military Officers, soldiers and their followers.
(4) All public officers and process-serving peons.
(5) All Police Officers

} When travelling on duty with their *bonafide* baggage, horse, *palkis* and conveyance.

(6) All Executive Officers of the District Board Department travelling on duty.

(7) All members of the District and Local Boards travelling on duty connected with their office as such members.

(8) All coolies engaged in repairing roads with their tools and instrument.

(9) All persons carrying dead bodies or property sent in by Police.

LANDING GROUNDS

There are three landing grounds at Darbhanga, Samastipur and Madhubani.

The landing ground at Darbhanga is private and managed by the owner. Darbhanga Maharaja. The other landing grounds belong to the State and maintained by the Public Works Department.

Darbhanga landing ground

The landing ground at Darbhanga is situated at a distance of 7 miles west from Laheriasarai Railway Station and four miles west from Darbhanga Railway Station. It is maintained by the Darbhanga Maharaja. When any private or Government plane lands on this landing ground, a charge is payable to Darbhanga Raj. There was a weekly air service run by Darbhanga Raj from Calcutta to Darbhanga and *vice versa* but this is not running regularly now. There is no wireless arrangement on the landing ground and the runway is unmetalled.

Samastipur landing ground

This is a small landing ground situated at a distance of three miles west from Samastipur Railway Station. It is serviceable only in fair weather. There is no wireless arrangement here.

There is no regular air service in this district. Private aeroplanes are allowed to use the landing ground on payment of charges leviable under the rules framed in 1952.

Madhubani landing ground

This small landing ground is situated at a distance of three miles west from Madhubani station. Its runway is unmetalled and serviceable only in fair weather.

Private aeroplanes are allowed to use these landing grounds on payment of charges.

Dak Bungalows, Inspection Bungalows and Rest Houses

There is a Circuit House at Laheriasarai which is maintained by the State Government (Revenue Department) and is meant for touring high officials.

For the lodging of officers of various Government Departments, District Board and non-officials touring the district, there are Inspection Bungalows, Dak Bungalows and Rest Houses maintained by Public Works Department or the District Board. All these bungalows are looked after by one or more servants, and in some of them cooks are available to provide meals for the occupants on payment. Besides these bungalows there are *Dharmashalas* for the general public and subordinate officers on tour.

There is a Dak Bungalow at Laheriasarai, Madhubani and one at Samastipur. Besides there are 15 Inspection Bungalows in the district. These are situated at Laheriasarai (Sadar subdivision), Bahera (Sadar subdivision), Sakri (Madhubani subdivision), Madhubani, Benipatti (Madhubani subdivision), Umgaon (Madhubani subdivision), Jaynagar (Madhubani subdivision), Phulparas (Madhubani subdivision), Samastipur, Mohiuddinagar (Samastipur subdivision Dalsingsarai (Samastipur subdivision), Rusera (Samastipur subdivision), Buchauli (Samastipur subdivision), Bahera (Sadar subdivision) and Singia (Samastipur subdivision). There is a Rest House at Tajpur (Samastipur subdivision). There is an Inspection Bungalow of Waterways Department at Jaynagar. These Dak Bungalows and Inspection Bungalows are also available to the travelling non-officials on a small payment.

There are *Dharmashalas* or chariatable Rest Houses in all the towns, namely, Darbhanga, Laheriasarai, Madhubai, Samastipur and Jaynagar, etc. Stay for a limited period is free at the *Dharmashalas*.

The number of existing Dak and Inspection Bungalows, Rest Houses and *Dharmashalas*, etc., is adequate. There has been an enormous increase in the number of Government Officers and their staff that have to tour constantly. As a result, the pressure of want of proper Rest Houses for the other travelling public non-officials is being actually felt.

So far as the hotels are concerned there are hotels provided with lodge are at Samastipur, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Laheriasarai, Jaynagar and Dalsingsarai, etc. These are of ordinary standard. The Raj Guest House at Darbhanga where accommodation and food are available is the only hotel of some standard.

Rest Houses with an eye to the development of tourism have not yet been set up. Vidyapatinagar or Bisfi village hallowed with the name of the immortal poet Vidyapati is an ideal place for rest houses to develop tourism.

Postal Communication

Mr. J. H. Kerr, I.C.S. in his book "Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operation in the Darbhanga District" (1896 to 1903) mentions that "the district contains 55 sub and branch post offices and is thus provided with one post office for every 60 square miles". By 1907 there was an expansion. More details are given by O'Malley in the District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907). He observes:—

> "There are altogether 414 miles of postal communication and 62 post offices in the district, their being thus one post office for every 54 square miles. The number of postal articles delivered in 1905-06 was 2,243,000, the value of money orders issued was Rs. 14,57,000 and of those paid Rs. 19,14,000 and the total amount of Savings Bank deposit was Rs. 1,61,000. There are also 13 telegraph offices, for which 17,500 messages were issued in the year; those offices are situated at Dalsingsarai, Darbhanga, Kamtaul, Laheriasarai, Madhubani, Narahia, Narhan, Pandaul, Pusa, Rajnagar, Rusera, Samastipur and Tajpur."*

The Superintendent of Post Offices with headquarters at Darbhanga is the head of the Postal Department, which is under a Central Ministry. The Superintendent of Post Offices, Darbhanga Postal Division, is assisted by seven Inspectors. They are posted at Darbhanga, Madhubani and Samastipur.

The postal mileage covered by the runners is 1,994 miles and by railways is 264 miles in the district. The runner system is being slowly liquidated with the expansion of roadways served by motor buses some of which carry mails.

There are two Head Post Offices, namely, Laheriasarai and Samastipur in Darbhanga district. There are 53 Sub-Post Offices and 661 Branch Post Offices. The Sub-Post Offices in the district are Bahera, Biraul, Benipatti, Bharwara, C.M. College, Civil Lines,

*District Gazetteer, Darbhanga (1907), p. 112.

Darbhanga, Darbhanga City, Darbhanga Chouk, Ghoghardiha, Imambari, Jaynagar, Jhanjharpur R.S., Jhanjharpur, Jogiara, Kamtaul, Kansisimri, Keoti-Runway, Khajauli, Khutauna, Kamauli Bazar, Kurso, Nadiani, Laukaha, Laukahi, Lohat, Madhepur, Madhubani, Madhubani Bazar, Manigachi, Madhwarpur, Narahia, Nehra, Nirmali, Pandaul, Pindwach, Pustak Bhandar, Dadrabad, Rajnagar, Rayam Factory, Sakri, Sarsopahi, Junmia, Akhtearpur, Dalsingsarai, H.S. Mill, Mangalgarh, Mohiuddinagar, Mowabazeedpur, Narhan, Patory, Pusa, Rusera, Samastipur Court, Samastipur Bazar, Singia, Tajpur, Ujarpur and Waini.

Most of the Sub-Post Offices are served by the railways direct and others are served by road through mail runners. There is no communication for serving the Sub-Post Offices through motors or buses in this district.

The 661 Branch Post Offices are located at bigger villages and they serve the neighbouring villages. Some of the Branch Post Offices are located where there are police-stations and Block offices.

At all the Post Offices, ordinary Postal transactions including money orders are conducted. All the Sub-Post Offices conduct Savings Bank business and also sell National Savings Certificates. National Savings Certificates are not sold at any extra Departmental Sub-Offices. Some of the Branch Post Offices also have Savings Bank transactions. There is no village with a population of 2,000 or more that is without a Post Office.

The following statistics indicate the average monthly and yearly postal business done in 1960-61:—

(1) Average monthly number of letters received 1,35,68,070.

(2) Average monthly number of letters despatched 91,92,280.

(3) The value of money orders yearly received Rs. 1,39,23,506.93.

(4) The value of money orders yearly paid Rs. 2,74,48,815.96.

(5) Average amount of savings bank yearly deposits Rs. 82,17. 440.57.

(6) Average amount of savings bank yearly withdrawal Rs. 7.04,54,631.

(7) Average amount of National Savings issued 1,18,100.

(8) Average amount of National Savings discharged 4,06,743.

Telephone and Telegraphs

Regarding Telegraphs Mr. J. H. Kerr mentions that 'In addition to the railway telegraph system, there are wires from Sakri to Madhubani and Rajnagar, a distance of 20 miles; from Nirmali to Naraya 6 miles, and from Samastipur to Rusera 18 miles'.*

Mr. L. S. S. O'Malley in the last District Gazetteer published in 1907 also mentioned that there were 13 telegraph offices in this district. But at present (December, 1961) Postal Telegraph Offices have increased up to 70 in this district.

At present (December, 1961) there are five Telephone Exchanges in the district, namely, Laheriasarai, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur and Jaynagar.

During 1959 Darbhanga Telephone Exchange had 279 main connections and in 1960 was 291 and at present it has increased up to about 300 connections both private and Government concerns.

During 1960 Laheriasarai Telephone Exchange had 112 main connections, Madhubani had 28, Samastipur had 99 and Jaynagar had 27 connections.

There are nineteen public call offices in the district, namely, Bahera, Darbhanga, Darbhanga R.M.S., Ghoghardiha, Jhanjharpur Bazar, Jhanjharpur R.S., Laheriasarai, Sakri, Benipatti, Madhubani, Jaynagar, Chhatauna, Dalsingsarai, Pusa, Rusera, Samastipur, Samastipur R.S., Tajpur and Waini.

There is a great demand for taking telephones to the houses of traders and professional men but owing to various difficulties there has not been much expansion of the telephones. The businessmen are rather handicapped for want of telephones. Owing to a great expansion of Government offices phones, are being given a priority.

Radio and Wireless

There is no broadcasting station in the district. The State has now two broadcasting stations at Patna and Ranchi.

The number of licencees for radio in Darbhanga district for 1959 was 3,236 and in 1960 was 3,726. The people are slowly getting radio-minded and every radio serves at least six persons. The

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*Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Darbhanga District (1896 to 1903 and 1904).

following statement shows the number of licensed radios in Darbhanga district from 1955 to 1960:—

Year		Private person's radio	Government office's radio	Total
1955	..	2,198	7	2,205
1956	..	2,308	8	2,316
1957	..	2,486	10	2,496
1958	..	2,870	18	2,888
1959	..	3,205	31	3,236
1960	..	3,701	25	3,726

There is an Inspector to check up an authorised maintenance of radios in the district. The number of radios in the district is yet far too small.

So far as the wireless is concerned the police have four wireless stations at Laheriasarai, Samastipur, Jaynagar and Madhubani, but they are meant for administrative purposes only. The necessity of such wireless stations was particularly felt by the administration in 1942 disturbances.

Organisation of transport owners and employees

There are very few of well organised associations of the transport owners and transport employees. The associations that do exist are rather loosely knit and their political affiliations are not always clear.

There is only one association of bus owners. In face of the large number of buses that have Darbhanga as starting point and another large number of buses that pass through Darbhanga, this association has an important role to play. The association looks after the interest of the transport owners. There is also a union of the motor employees and the name of the union is Darbhanga Motor Employees Union and its registration number is 594. In consideration of the much large number of motor transport employees, it could be said that this association is not well represented.

The rickshaw pullers of Darbhanga district have three associations. Darbhanga Rickshaw Drivers' Union is affiliated to All India Trade Union Congress. Laheriasarai Rickshaw Mazdoor Union is also affiliated to All India Trade Union Congress. There is another Rickshaw *Tamtam* Mazdoor Union.

CHAPTER VIII

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Many of the factors indicating the economic trends of the district have been indicated in different texts on People, Agriculture and Irrigation, Industries, etc. In this text there will be some repetitions.

The district carved out of the old district of Tirhut in 1875 is one flat low-lying plain of alluvial formation. There are no hills or eminence and there is gentle slope from the north to the south broken by a depression at the centre. The district occupies an area of 3,345 square miles and has a population of 4,413,027 according to 1961 census as against 3,769,534 souls according to 1951 census. From the area point of view the district has continued to occupy the eleventh rank as in 1951 census. From the population point of view the district now ranks first in the State as it was in 1951 census. The district has a percentage of 14.67 population of Scheduled Castes. There is practically no population of Scheduled Tribes. The density is 1,314 persons per square mile and from this point of view she ranks fourth in the State, Patna, Muzaffarpur and Saran district having the density of 1,386, 1,364 and 1,337 persons respectively. There are 1,059 females in Darbhanga district per thousand males. The percentage of literates (including educated persons) is 16.8 The break up figure for literates for males and females are 28.4 and 5.8 respectively. Darbhanga has only six towns according to the new conception of an urban area in 1961 census. The economy is predominantly agricultural as over 89 per cent of the total population are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. The district is devoid of mineral resources except saltpetre which occurs as natural efflorescene which may be ignored as an economic factor.

Growth of Population.—The growth of population has been indicated in the text on People. The correct total figure for 1961 census which has now been available has been mentioned earlier. As detailed break up figures of 1961 census are not yet available, the discussions based on the provisional figures of 1961 census supplied by the Census Department in the text on People and other texts cannot be altered and may be generally accepted.

The pace of urbanisation in this district has been extremely slow. According to 1951 census the percentage of urban population was 4.25 which has only increased to 4.32 in 1961 census. The district continues to occupy the fifteenth rank out of the 17 districts from the point of view of incidence or urbanisation.

Livelihood Pattern.—The following table prepared on the basis of data given in *District Census Handbook of Darbhanga*, 1955, shows the distribution of population into different livelihood

pattern. (Total percentage shown within bracket under each of the categories of column 1.)

Principal livelihood classes.	Self-supporting persons.	Non-earning dependents.	Earning dependents.
(A) *Agricultural Classes* (89.11 *per cent*) ..	1,013,912	2,276,367	68,660
(1) Cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned and their dependents (39.73 per cent).	451,407	1,012,890	33,210
(2) Cultivators of land wholly or mainly unowned and their dependents (10.19 per cent).	114,869	260,314	8,815
(3) Cultivating labourers and their dependents (38.81 per cent).	442,554	994,130	26,233
(4) Non-cultivating owners of land, agricultural rent receivers and their dependents (0.38 per cent.).	5,082	9,024	402
(B) *Non-Agricultural Classes* (10.89 *per cent*) ..	118,649	281,492	10,554
(5) Production (other than cultivation) (2.08 per cent).	25,990	49,525	2,956
(6) Commerce (2.60 per cent)	29,296	68,589	3,575
(7) Transport (0.46 per cent)	5,516	11,351	304
(8) Other services and miscellaneous services	57,747	152,027	3,719
(9) Percentage of total population .	30	67.9	2.1

From the perusal of foregoing table it becomes clear that more than one million persons are self-supporting, i.e., who are in receipt of some income in cash or kind which is sufficient at least for their own maintenance. This constitutes roughly 30 per cent of the total population. The balance of 70 per cent of the total population are dependents consisting of earning and non-earning dependents. The proportion of earning dependents (0.79 lakh) constitute roughly 2.1 per cent of total population and they are able to supplement the income of their families by their own independent income. As many as 2.56 millions or 67.9 per cent are entirely dependent for their maintenance, on the earnings of others. Thus 100 bread winners have to feed, clothe and generally support roughly 226 other persons who do not have any independent earning of their own. This large portion of wholly dependents is composed of not only of children and old and infirm persons but also of women folk who in the absence of suitable handicrafts and other village industries are unable to supplement the earnings of the householders. They do, no doubt, look after their domesti duties and a large number of women of agriculturist families work

on the fields during sowing and harvesting but most of them are economically dependent on the males for their livelihood.

Due to heavy pressure of population, the burden of dependence on economically active population is more or less the same both in agricultural and non-agricultural occupations. This can be seen by looking into the figures given below showing the distribution of 100 persons, general, self-supporting and dependents into different livelihood categories :—

	Agri cultuarl	Non-Agri-cultural.
General	89 11%	10 89%
Self supporting	30	28
Dependents	70	72
Total	100	100

Again, the following figures give the distribution of 100 persons of the general, agricultural and non-agricultural classes by their economic status :—

	Self-supporting.	Dependents (earning and non-earning).
General	30%	70%
Agricultural	90	88
Non-agricultural	10	12
Total ..	100	100

From the above table it becomes clear that 30 per cent of the total population is economically active and of this economically active population 90 per cent derive their livelihood from agriculture and only 10 per cent from non-agricultural occupations· 70 per cent of the total population who are dependents have bulk of their weight on agriculture, i.e., 88 per cent; and only 12 per cent of dependents have weight on non-agricultural occupations. On the whole, the pressure of burden is the same both on agricultural and non agricultural occupations. It is rather peculiar that relative weight of dependence is slightly higher in non-agricultural occupations.

Agriculture.—Details regarding agriculture in this district, the soils, the crops, etc., have been indicated in the text on Agriculture and Irrigation. A few facts may, however, be mentioned here. The total land area including house sites, tanks, roads, etc., is 2.14 million acres and works out to 57 cents *per capita* (1951). The average net area cultivated based on yearly average for the quinquennium ending 1949-50 is 1.57 million acres or roughly

73.1 per cent of the total land area. The *per capita* net area cultivated amounts to 42 cents only (1951). As much as 4.65 lakh acres or roughly 12.4 per cent of the total land area are not available for cultivation being under homesteads, rivers, tanks, roads, unculturable jungles, etc. Culturable wastes including area under orchards account for roughly 6.9 per cent and current fallows 7.6 per cent of the total land area.

Rice is the principal crop while the other important crops including maize, sugarcane, chillies, jute, tobacco, etc. The percentage of gross cultivated area under rice, maize and other cereals and pulses has increased a lot. The trend is to put more land under food crops. Production of foodgrains has also recorded a rising trend. During 1950-51 production of foodgrains in this district was estimated at 468,787 tons. During the First Five-Year Plan the aim was to produce an additional 45,878 tons of foodgrains but at the end of First Five-Year Plan an additional quantity of 57,348 tons of foodgrains were produced. The principal crop acreage and production of crops in Darbhanga district in the year 1955-56 is given below :—

Item.	Acreage (in mds. of acres).	Outturn (in tons.)
Rice	867	1,70,964 Winter.
		9,927 Autumn.
Wheat	122	25,964
Gram	35	6,527
Barley	70	10,133
Maize	35	3,045
Masoor	8	893
Arhar	15	3,231
Khesari .. .	N.A.	15,009
Marua	20	N.A.
Peas	5	493
Sugarcane	25	160,125
Tobacco	4	N.A.
Potato . ..	7	N.A.
Jute	5	N.A.
Chillies	10	N.A.

N.A.—Not available.

SOURCE.—*Bihar Statistical Handbook.*

Besides the produce of crops, food and cash, this district has very large mango orchards and a number of other fruits mentioned elsewhere.

Thus Darbhanga has a traditional agricultural base with a slender industrial structure and on account of growth of population the pressure on land has been increasing continuously. Economic stagnation is much greater due to higher agrarian content and a larger density of population. Population has increased steadily after 1921 but the net area cultivated has actually decreased during that period. Increased population, however, could have enjoyed a higher *per capita* income had there been significant industrial base in the district. Agricultural base has not been compensated by the industries and minerals and the burden of dependents on self-supporting persons have terribly increased. Absorptive capacity in agriculture is limited and with diminished opportunities for migration, 'unemployment' and under-employment have considerably increased. As much as 38 per cent of the total population constitutes the mass of cultivating labourer who are landless and a major portion of this class is redundant to the requirement of rural economy. Further the seasonal character of activitiy in agriculture makes the situation worse in off seasons and with little opportunities avoidable elsewhere they remain economically inactive for a greater part of the year.

Industry.—Details of the current industries and the industrial potential have been discussed in the text on Industry. According to 1951 census industry is another source of livelihood but it supports only 2 per cent of the total population. Self-supporting persons engaged in industries number 26 thousands or roughly 0 8 per cent of the total population. The percentage of earning dependents is negligible and the total number of dependents on self-supporting persons is 49.5 thousand or 1.5 per cent of the total population.

Commerce supports 1.01 lakh persons which constitutes 2.69 per cent of total population. In commerce also, the proportion of dependents to self-supporting persons is the same as in industries. Trade consists of foodstuffs, fuel, textile and leather goods, spices, etc.

Transport and communication supports 17 thousand persons in all which constitutes 0.46 per cent of total population. Other services and miscellaneous occupations which include health, education, public administration, domestic services, personnel services, hotels, restaurants and eating houses, legal and business services, art, journalism, religion and other welfare services, etc., support 2.13 lakh persons or 5.66 per cent of total population. Taken as a whole, 11.8 lakh persons constitute self-supporting

(persons in non-agricultural occupations which is 3.3 per cent earning and non-earning) is 2.9 lakhs or roughly 7.5 per cent of total population.

Level of Prices.—Level of prices indicates the economic trends of the area. It affects the purchasing power and economic condition of the people and has a bearing on the real income and on the standard of living of people.

From the records available in old correspondence files of Tirhut, we come to know that prices of grains were very cheap during the closing decades of 18th century. The average rates at which some grains were sold in 1792, 1793 and 1794 are given below :—

Item.	1792.		1793.		1794.	
	Mds. sr.		Mds. sr.		Mds. sr.	
Wheat	0 38	per rupee	1 15	per rupee	2 0	per rupee.
Barley	1 27½	,,	2 12	,,	3 20	,,
Gram	1 27½	,,	1 18¾	,,	1 35	,,
Kalai (Pulses) ..	1 4½	,,	1 27½	,,	1 32½	,,

As is evident prices of foodgrains and pulses were very cheap, increasing in the years of scarcity and decreasing in the years of abundance and good harvest.

During the first decade of the 19th century prices were comparatively higher than that of the last decade of the 18th century. This can be seen from the figures below :—

In the year 1810 in the month of Octcber, prices of grains in Tirhut Division were as follows :—

	Mds	sr.	ch.	
Fine rice	0	19	0	per rupee.
Rice second sort	0	20	0	,,
Rice third sort	0	27	8	,,
Rice 4th sort	0	28	12	,,
Rice 5th sort	0	31	4	,,
Rice 6th sort	0	32	4	,,
Rice 7th sort	0	35	0	,,
Wheat 1st sort	1	5	0	,,
Wheat 2nd sort	1	7	0	,,
Paddy	1	15	0	,,
Barley	1	30	0	,,
Arhar Dal	0	37	8	,,
Orid Dal	0	37	8	,,
Boot (Gram)	1	5	0	,,

SOURCE—A report of Mr. D. Burgel, Acting Collector, dated 8th November 1810.

From the tour diaries of Mr. Greer, a Subdivisional Officer of Madhubani, we know the level of prices prevailing in Darbhanga in the year 1889. This gives us a rough idea of the ruling prices during the closing decades of the 19th century. The report says, "The comparative prices then prevalent at different markets were as follows :—

——	Harlakhi.	Umgaon.	Sakri.	Ladania.
1	2	3	4	5
	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.	Srs.
Rice ..	13 9/10 per rupee	12 9/10 per rupee	..	18 to 20 per rupee
Dhan ..	23 7/8 ,,	10 9/10 ,,	24 1/2 Per rupee	..
Rahar ..	15 37/40 ,,	19 9/10 ,,	4 *Pasari*	4 *pasari*.
Marua ..	16 4/5 ,,	15 3/4 ,,	4 1/2 ,,	..
Urid ..	13 37/40 ,,	..	..	..
Ohana ..	823/40 ,,	..	..	..
Potato for seed	13 37/40 ,,	..	..	..
Makai ..	..	11 15/16 ,,	..	..
Salt ..	..	..	..	14 per rupee
Oil ..	..	..	..	4 ,,

It may be mentioned that the year 1889 like most of the years of two closing decades, was a year of scarcity and as is evident prices were very high from the point of view of the then consumer. From the *Darbhanga District Gazetteer Statistics*, 1915, we get data relating to the ruling level of prices during the first decade of the 20th century. The level of prices did not fluctuate much during this decade. In the years of scarcity in 1908 and 1909, prices increased slightly. In 1903 and 1904 prices were comparatively cheaper Otherwise prices were more or less stable throughout. The average prices of wheat, rice (common) and grain were 11 seers per rupee, 12 seers per rupee and 15 seers per rupee respectively. The average price of salt was 14 seers per rupee. A table showing the details of price level during 1901—1912 is given below :—

PRICES IN SEERS PER RUPEE 1901—1912.

(Prices relate to headquarters only.)

Years.	Wheat.		Rice (common).		Gram.		Salt.	
	Srs.	ch.	Srs.	ch.	Srs.	ch.	Srs.	ch.
1901	11	0	15	6	14	4	11	0
1902	12	0	12	0	19	12	11	0

Years.	Wheat.		Rice (common).		Gram.		Salt.	
	Srs.	Ch.	Srs.	Ch.	Srs.	Ch.	Srs.	Ch.
1903	14	4	15	6	17	9	12	9
1904	15	6	16	8	18	11	13	4
1905	13	13	15	15	15	6	12	1
1906 . ..	11	0	11	9	11	0	14	4
1907	11	8	8	12	14	4	15	6
1908	7	1	7	11	9	14	19	12
1909	7	11	7	11	11	0	19	12
1910	9	14	14	5	14	4	19	12
1911	11	9	13	3	19	12	19	12
1912	11	0	11	8	17	9	17	9

The year 1913-14 saw an abnormal rise in the prices of foodgrains which affected the middle classes severely. 1914-15 outturn of crops was low due to bad weather and the prices continued to soar high affecting the landless and the middle class. In 1917-18 the prices of cloth abnormally increased due to war and the speculation of traders caused much hardship to the poorer and middle classes. In 1920-21 prices of staple foodgrains were lower and some satisfaction and relief was observed. In the decade starting with 1920 prices were more or less stable. The year 1930-31 was the year when the great depression was setting in and there was a general slump in trade and industry. Prices of foodgrains decreased markedly and prices of cloth, etc., also came down which gave some relief to middle and poorer class people and particularly the salaried classes. But businessmen and producers were hard hit. The agriculturists were also hard hit as they found it difficult to dispose of their produce at profit. In the years that followed, prices continued to be comparatively lower in spite of scarcity or other troubles. In 1935-36 prices of chillies fell desastrously which however, improved in the year 1936-37 and provided much relief to growers. With the start of World War I, prices of essential commodities took an upward turn. But the rising prices were soon brought down by the price control measures. Prices of sugarcane fell in 1940-41. Thereafter prices went on increasing with downward swings occasionally. During August, 1943, prices of foodgrains were 6 times higher than those in January, 1941. But after the 1943 prices declined and in December, 1944 prices were considerably lower. Price control was largely responsible in halting the upward swing in prices. Inflation was of "suppressed type" and blackmarketing was rampant.

The partially 'suppressed' inflation of the war period made a jerky outburst in the immediate post-war period under the impact of pent up demand. The voluntary abstinence during war period ended and people were eager to consume more goods without sizeable increase in the volume of goods supplied because of heavy war time depreciation of plants, machinery and labour unrest. The level of prices went on increasing till 1952. Cost of living increased too. The level of prices during the decade 1941—50 in the district of Darbhanga is indicated below :—

RULING WHOLESALE PRICES DURING SOME SELECTED MONTHS IN THE DECADE 1941—50

(Price per maund.)

Year.	Month.	Rice (medium).	Wheat (red).	Gram.
1	2	3	4	5
		Rs. a. p	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1941 ..	January	4 12 0	..	3 4 0
	April	4 15 0	..	3 4 0
	July	5 10 0	..	2 14 0
	November	6 2 0	..	3 12 0
	December	6 6 0	..	4 0 0
1942 ..	January	5 12 0	..	3 10 0
	April	5 9 0	..	3 12 0
	July	6 7 0	..	4 14 0
	November	6 14 0	..	6 8 0
	December	7 10 0	..	8 0 0
1943 ..	January	7 4 0	..	5 0 0
	April	9 10 0	9 12 0	5 0 0
	July	25 0 0	20 0 0	13 0 0
	November	16 8 0	16 8 0	11 8 0
	December	13 0 0	13 0 0	9 8 0
1944 ..	January	12 8 0	15 8 0	11 8 0
	April	17 0 0	14 0 0	11 8 0
	July	15 0 0	12 8 0	9 8 0
	November	11 0 0	9 0 0	8 0 0
	December	11 0 0	9 0 0	8 0 0

Year	Month	Rice (medium)			Wheat (red)			Gram		
1	2	3			4			5		
1945 ..	January	13	0	0	9	0	0	7	0	0
	April	13	4	0	12	8	0	7	0	0
	July	14	8	0	12	8	0	7	0	0
	November	18	0	0	13	0	0	9	0	0
	December	16	0	0	13	0	0	9	0	0
1946 ..	January	15	8	0	13	0	0	9	0	0
	April . ..	19	8	0	13	0	0	9	0	0
	July . ..	19	0	0	13	0	0	12	0	0
	November	19	0	0	14	0	0	12	0	0
	December	19	0	0	14	0	0	12	0	0
1947 ..	January	19	0	0	14	0	0	12	0	0
	April	26	0	0	11	12	0	11	8	0
	July .. .	13	5	0	12	1	0	9	12	0
	November .. .	13	5	0	12	12	0	9	12	0
	December	13	5	0	12	1	0	9	12	0
1948 ..	January	23	0	0	26	0	0	16	0	0
	April	18	0	0	26	0	0	16	0	0
	July ..	26	0	0	25	0	0	18	0	0
	November .	24	0	0	25	0	0	16	0	0
	December . ..	28	0	0	25	0	0	18	0	0
1949 ..	January	22	0	0	25	0	0	16	0	0
	April . ..	24	0	0	26	0	0	17	0	0
	July	28	0	0	24	0	0	15	0	0
	November	24	0	0	25	0	0	15	8	0
	December	25	0	0	25	0	0	15	8	0
1950 ..	January	23	0	0	24	0	0	15	0	0
	April	26	0	0	26	0	0	16	0	0
	July	30	0	0	25	0	0	20	0	0
	November	28	0	0	29	0	0	23	0	0
	December	31	0	0	30	0	0	24	0	0

In the year 1953-54 floods affected the eastern part of the district but the outturn of paddy crop was good in the areas not affected by floods. Prices of all essential commodities showed a fall during the year 1953-54. Sugarcane prices also declined and the cultivators suffered a lot.

From 1957-58, the general price level increased mainly as a consequence of deficit financing which made deep cuts in the standard of living of the people. Government did not feel comfortable over this and started fair price shops to arrest any further increase in price level. The prices, however, had not fallen much.

Level of Wages.—Level of wages may be studied under two heads—agricultural wages and industrial wages.

Agricultural Wages.—Statistics of agricultural wages are very unsatisfactory in our country and till recently no such data were collected on any uniform and scientific basis. However, some information regarding the agricultural wages in the past can be had from the Land Revenue Administration Reports, Tour Diaries of different officials and other published papers.

In past agricultural wages were very cheap and mostly paid in kind. W. W. Hunter in his *Statistical Account of Tirhut* (1877), mentions :—"Wages compared with those of Lower Bengal are undoubtedly low. A coolie earns from 1 1/2 to 3 annas per day. Agricultural labourers do not receive their wages entirely in cash. A common wage is 1 anna together with one meal a day, consisting of 1 1/2 seers of rice and a little *satu.* In harvest time a coolie is remunerated by a share of the crop varying from 5 to 6 per cent. During the rice harvest it is hardly possible to get coolies to work for ordinary cash wages, so much more advantageous is it for them to be paid in grain. Carpenters and smiths get from 1 1/2 to 3 annas per day in the country and from 2 to 4 annas in the towns. It appears from early records that wages have risen very slightly. In 1794 coolies were paid about 1 anna 2 pies per day; carpenters about 2 annas."

From the tour diaries of Mr. Greer, the Subdivisional Officer, Madhubani in 1889 which were luckily salvaged from Madhubani office, we find that the wages of unskilled workers engaged in repairing roads was at the rate of 2 annas per 100 cubic feet for earthwork. One man told the S. D. O. that he could earn 4 annas a day at that rate, but others told him that 200 cubic feet was an excessive quantity except for an unusally strong man.

In 1911 in the month of April. a wage census was taken and the data collected are available in the Statistical Bulletin of *Darbhanga District Gazetteer,* 1915. Though in most of the cases, wages were paid in kind, for the purpose of convenience those were calculated in rupees and annas. A ploughman was generally paid

2 or 2 1/2 annas per day and Rs. 4 only per month. Agricultural labourers were hardly appointed on permanent basis as agricultural operation is mostly seasonal in nature. Unskilled workers were paid 2 1/2 seers of grains per day as wage value of which comes to 2 annas to 2 1/2 annas. They were sometimes paid in cash but the cash wages were equal to value of cash as paid in kind. A blacksmith was paid 3½ annas to 4 annas per day. A carpenter was paid 3½ annas to 4 annas per day and a *gharami* was generally paid 3 annas to 3½ annas per day. It appears that wages had slightly increased during the early years of the 20th century as compared to the wages nearabout 1870. In 1914-15 wages were rising and the labourer class was well off in face of the rising prices. In 1917-18 prices were high but wages of unskilled workers had increased and they got relief.

During 1920 decade wages were comparatively stationary. In 1929-30 also wages were stable while prices were falling. The labourer class was better off but in 1932-33 wages started falling and the condition of labourers deteriorated. In 1944-45 prices were high but wages of unskilled labourers had increased considerably. They were much better off as compared to middle class people who had fixed income.

Current level of wages in agriculture are available from the data collected in 1959 by the Statistical Bureau of Bihar. Quarterly Bulletin of Statistics, July, 1959 gives data showing current daily rate of agricultural wages in a selected village in the district of Darbhanga for three months in 1959. They are as follow :—

		April, 1959	May, 1959	June, 1959
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Carpenter	..	2.25	2.25	2.25
Blacksmith	..	2.25	2.25	2.50
Mochies	..	1.31	1.31	1.31
Field labour	Men ..	1.05	1.02	1.02
	Women ..	1.05	1.02	1.02
	Children ..	0.79	0.78	0.76
Herdsmen	Men ..	0.75	0.75	0.76
	Women ..	0.75	0.75	..
	Children ..	0.75	0.75	..

In 50 years of this century wages of unskilled agricultural labour have increased 6 to 8 fold, that of carpenter and smith have increased 9 fold. Just before the sowing season, demand of the labour of blacksmith increases greatly and at that time wages of smiths increase even more. It is also interesting to note that the level of wages has increased as commensurate with the rising prices during the First and Second World Wars and with rising cost of living.

Industrial Wages.—The economic condition of industrial labour of this district depends upon the rate of their wages and the period of employment. In case of sugar industries workers are employed on seasonal basis for a period of four to five months in a year while for the rest period they remain out of factory. The skilled workers get 50 per cent retaining allowance during the off season while the semi-skilled workers get 25 per cent. This condition of employment of workers of sugar industries affects their economic condition. The workers of the rice mills also are seasonal but they do not get any retaining allowance for the off season. In case of other industries workers remain in employment practically for the whole year.

Most of the industries of this district come under the scope of Minimum Wages Act, 1948. In almost all these industries 'sweated labour' is prevalent and in the past wages used to fluctuate in favour of employers in absence of any institution of collective bargaining. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 has safeguarded the interests of the wage earners and has also been successful in ameliorating the conditions of industrial labour.

Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the State Government has fixed minimum rates of wages for different categories of employees engaged in different scheduled employments like sugar, jute, rice mills, flour mills, oil mills, public motor transport, automobile engineering shops, printing presses, *biri* making, brick laying, etc.

Following is the trend of consolidated minimum wages of unskilled workmen in sugar industries in the district of Darbhanga from 1947—61 :—

Year	Consolidated wages (per month) Rs.	a.	p.
1947	36	0	0
1948	45	0	0
1949	55	0	0
1950	55	0	0
1951	55	0	0
1952	55	0	0
1953	55	0	0
1954	55	0	0
1955	55	0	0
1956	55	0	0

Year					Consolidated wages (per month) Rs.
1957	..	..	..	..	55.75
1958	..	..	..	..	56.25
1959	..	..	..	..	58.00
1960	..	..	..	..	58.00
1961	..	..	..	..	76.00

As is evident the wages have increased more than two fold in between 1947—61. In 1947 the wage was Rs. 36 per month (consolidated) but in 1948 with the enactment of Minimum Wages Act, 1948, it was fixed at Rs. 45 per month. In 1949 it was enhanced to Rs. 55.00 per month and this wage continued up to 1956. In 1957 it was enhanced to Rs. 55.75 and then in 1958 it was fixed at Rs. 56.25. In 1959 it was again enhanced to Rs. 58 00 per month. In 1961 as per recommendation of the Central Wage Board for Sugar Industries, minimum rates of wages of unskilled labour have been fixed at Rs. 76.00 per month. The Board has recommended different scales of pay for different categories of employees like unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled, highly skilled, clerical and supervisory staff.

The Wage Board has also framed a scheme for the workmen employed in a sugar industry whereby the scale of gratuity would be one half of a month's pay to permanent and one fourth of a month's pay to seasonal workmen for every continuous year or season of service, as the case may be, subject to a maximum of fifteen month's pay.

The trend of minimum wages (consolidated) of the unskilled workmen in jute industry in Darbhanga district from 1955—61 has been as follows per month :—

Year					Rs.
1955	..	..	..	..	54.80
1956	..	..	..	..	54.80
1957	..	..	..	..	56.32
1958	..	..	..	..	62.00
1959	..	..	..	..	62.00
1960	..	..	..	..	62.00
1961	..	..	..	..	73.44

From the perusal of above figures we find that wages have been increasing in jute industry also. Within a period of 6 years, increase in the rates of wages is considerable. The present rates of wage of unskilled workers have improved the economic condition of labourers in jute industry to a considerable extent.

At present in jute industry the workers are getting their wages as per Third Bengal Awards. However, the Central Wage Board for jute industries has been set up by the Government of India by the Resolution no. W.B.-5 (*i*) /60, dated the 26th August, 1960, for fixing the different scales of pay for different categories of employees engaged in a jute industry. The main recommendation of the Wage Board is still awaited (1962). The Wage Board has recommended an interim relief for all types of workers engaged in jute industry Rs. 2.85 N p. per month from 1st October, 1960 to 31st December 1960 and at the rate of Rs. 3.42 N p. from 1st January, 1961. But this is only an interim relief.

Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the State Government has fixed minimum rates of wages for different categories of employees engaged in different scheduled employments like rice mills, flour mills, oil mills, public motor transport, automobile engineering shops, printing presses, *biri* making, brick laying, etc. The wage rates fixed by the Government under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, for the employees engaged in different industries are embodied in different Gazette notifications and it may be said that the rates are more or less followed.

Standard of living, Articles of consumption and Family Budgets

Standard of living indicates economic trends. Standard of living is allied to material condition of the people which in its turn depends on level of income, propensity to consume, consumption pattern, number of dependents and level of prices. Livelihood pattern also influences the standard of living.

"*The Administration Report for Bengal,* 1872-73 (pp. 138) mentioned that as a general rule the people in Bihar were badly off. The fact is, that while the prices of food has everywhere risen the rate of wage, in Tirhut has been kept stationary by the heavy and increasing pressure of the population. There can be no doubt that money wages at present are cruelly low. A labour generally receives one and a half anna or 2½ annas per day and for this he will work willingly, except in the harvest and planting seasons. Grain wages are also common. Thus at the harvest time reapers are paid a percentage on the outturn which sometimes amounts to as much as 5 to 6 per cent and so much is it to their advantage to be remunerated in grain that it is hardly possible to get coolies in any numbers to work for cash payments during rice harvest. Another common custom is for the employer to pay one anna or 1½ d. and to give one meal." W.W. Hunter, the then Director General of Statistics, Government of India remarked: "I do not find that in Tirhut wages have risen in any appreciable degree. If wages have risen at all, it is only in the neighbourhood of large towns. On the other hand prices of foodgrains have undoubtedly risen." This shows that in 19th century the level of income

of labourers was very low with no signs of incresae while prices were rising only to affect the standard of living of these poorer class adversely.

Mr. Hunter observed: "In the south and south-west of the district, the people are better off, in as much as they are not so dependent on one crop as in Darbhanga and Madhubani, they are better acquainted with irrigation and its benefits and the land is more fertile." Emigration is said to be unknown in Darbhanga in those days.

Small proprietors in Darbhanga district were not as well off as *zamindars* but they wanted to become so by squeezing the peasants. Nominal rents were not excessive but the *abwabs* pressed heavily on *rayats*. The pressure of population on land enabled the proprietor class to levy higher total rental on land. Particular classes, again, such as *Trihutya* Brahmins on account of their habits and customs will not take to other occupations.

On the whole, wages were low, prices were rising, rents were high and the food, dress and houses of the common man was inferior in the past. Compared to the standard of living of a common man. a well-to-do man was in a far superior position. High level of income, balanced diet, possession of cattle, good dress and brick built houses were the features of standard of living of a well-to-do man. People of low income-group used to eat *maruu, kodo, satu* whereas the food of a well-to-do consisted of rice or wheat, fish, milk, fruits, curd, *chura* (parched rice), sweetmeats and *nimkis*. *Satu* was rarely taken by them. The dress of a commoner consisted of the coarsest materials whereas that of a well-to-do consisted of *topi*, *dhoti* of manchester cloth, chadar, *mirzai* (short coat) and shoes of country make.

At present, 95 per cent of the total population lives in villages and 89 per cent of total population is dependent on agriculture. Agriculture is an overcrowded occupation. *Per capita* area of cultivation has decreased from 59 cents in 1921 to 42 cents in 1951. In the same period, area sown more than once has not increased ; average net area sown has declined. 77 per cent of the total agricultural holdings fall below 2 acres and only 3 per cent of the holdings are above 5 acres. Only 40 per cent of the total population are owners of land. Thus the general condition of standard of living is deplorable. Owners of land are slightly better off than the land less.

Well-to-do class of people in urban areas have very high standard of living. This class includes doctors, lawyers, engineers, business magnets, public officials, etc. Middle class people both in urban and rural areas are hard pressed and their standard of living is mediocre. Perhaps they are the most oppressed class since they

have high hopes but poor resources. Low income-group people with fixed salary are better off than the lower middle classes. Their standard of living is poor and they are well-looked after.

The new trends in standard of living are (*i*) increased construction of *pucca* houses even in rural areas ; (*ii*) rise in wages and slight increase in standard of living of poorer class of people in face of rising prices; (*iii*) expense on education on the increase. In rural areas expenses are great for the display of social statu. Huge expenses are incurred on social cermonies like marriage, *sradh*, etc. Use of *pan*, *biri* and cigarette has also become common. *Dhoti* of *khadi* and *kurta* made of *kokti* cloth are coming into fashion these days.

The economy of Darbhanga is essentially an agricultural economy and fluctuation in agricultural condition due to floods, famines greatly affects the standard of living of the people. Most affected are generally middle class and low-income-group people in rural and urban areas with no fixed salary. The main affecting factors are income and prices. The economic history of Darbhanga in 20th century bears a testimony to this fact.

During the early years of the 20th century famines affected the middle class and low-income-group people greatly and their standard of living was affected. After 1909 their material condition improved slightly but again with the outburst of First World War and scarcity conditions and floods the standard of living of the people was affected. High prices also affected the standard of living of fixed income and this condition prevailed up to 1920-21. Thereafter the material condition of the people was better due to lower prices and better opportunities of employment. The sugar industries had prosperous years and a jute industry was opened in Muktapur in 1920-21. In the middle of twenties a new trend was marked. 'It was witnessed that *biris* and cigarettes are also on the increase among the all classes of people. Consumption of tea was also on increase." On the whole, it was noticed that the standard of living was rising gradually. In the year 1930-31 great depression was setting in and there was a general slump in trade and industry. But decreasing prices of essential commodities and particularly that of foodgrains provided much relief to the labourers, and middle class people. Producers and businessmen were hard hit. This condition continued for sometime and in 1933 wages declined and unemployment increased which made deep cuts in the standard of living of the people. In 1937-38, it was found that there was a shortage of purchasing power though prices were low, and indebtedness of the people increased on account of increased expenses in social institutions, such as, marriage, funeral, etc. Standard of living of the people was adversely affected.

In the wake of Second World War, middle class and fixed income-group people in urban areas were greatly affected due to

rising prices. The labour class was well off on account of increased demand for labour in employment market of the district. At this period the problem of educated unemployment was slightly solved as many of them joined the army. In 1943-44 prices were soaring up and agriculturists were better off as they were able to get high prices for their produce and they liquidated some of their old debts. Price of agricultural lands increased three-fold and that of bullocks four-fold. Trading class was well off with profiteering, hoarding and blackmarketing. Only middle class and fixed income-group were hard hit. In some cases even an increase in dearness allowance could not improve the situation. The following years up to 1952 were period of high prices and the economic lot of the middle class people was worse. There was acute shortage of cloth in this period.

During the last decade some changes have been noticed in the material condition of the people, but it would be hazardous to draw any definite conclusion at this stage. It can, however, be said that, a definite change in the mental outlook of the people towards standard of living has occurred. "Demonstration effect" is largly responsible for this. People in rural areas are more conscious now to adopt a higher standard of living as income increases. Increased transport and communication have paved the way for such a change of wider significance.

Articles of consumption and family budgets.

Since detailed and comprehensive survey on the pattern of consumption and family budgets are lacking, it would be hazardous to draw any definite conclusion on the recent pattern of consumption. Social obligations play a big role in determining the family expenditure. Marriage and other ceremonies take away a major portion of family income. Expenses are great in matters of litigation and court cases. Almost seventy per cent of family income goes for food items. This percentage declines to 55 or 60 per cent for well to-do classes. The margin left for saving is negligible and there is lack of propensity to save in rural areas. A portion of income of lower income-group goes for servicing debts and there is very little left for the improvement of agriculture. (Some information regarding the articles of consumption have already been given in the section under the heading "standard of living".)

W.W. Hunter in his *Statistical Account of Tribut* provided a rough picture of family budgets in the seventies of the 19th century. "The average monthly expenses of a household in fair circumstances, consisting of 5 persons ; 3 adults and 2 children may be estimated as below :—

Item	Quantity	Cost
1. Rice	148½ lbs.	9 s. 1½ d.
2. Pulses	45 lbs.	5 s. 2 d.
3. Salt	..	8 d.

Item	Quantity	Cost
4. Oil	..	2 s. 6 d.
5. Sugar	..	3 d.
6. Fish	..	2 s.
7. Vegetables	.	1 s.
8. Turmeric	..	3 d.
9. Chillies	..	3 d.
10. Milk	..	2 s.
11. Spices	..	3 d.
12. Fuel	..	4 s.
13. Tobacco	..	1½ d.
14. Ghee	.	1 s. 6 d.
15. Cloth	.	2 s. 6 d.
16. Fruit	..	1 s.
17. House Repairs	..	1 s. 6d.
18. Extras	..	6 d.

Total average monthly expenses £ 1, 15 s. 4½ d. or=Rs. 19.00.

He remarked "It is not very easy to estimate the expenses of an ordinary husbandry man, as he raises himself a great portion of the articles necessary for his own consumption. Rice, pulses, and vegetables are all home productions. Fish he catches when he has time. Following figures, therefore, only show the amount which he would require to spend were he to buy all his requisites in the market. They refer to same size of household as given above (year 1870).

Item	Quantity	Cost
1. *Satu*	123 lbs.	7 s. 10½ d.
2. Rice	92 lbs.	5 s. 2½ d.
3. Pulses	—	1 s.
4. Salt	..	4½ d.
5. Fuel	..	10½ d.
6. Oil	.	10½ d.
7. Tobacco	.	9 d.
8. Vegetables	.	10½ d.
9. Turmeric	.	3 d.
10. Chillies	.	3 d.
11. Cloth	..	2 s.
12. Fish	..	6 d.
13. Fruits	..	3 d.
14. Repairs of Houses	..	6 d.
15. Extras	..	6 d.

Total average monthly expenses £ 1.2s. 2d=Rs. 11 anna 1.

The proper husbandmen have to reduce these expenses to half."

General level of employment in different occupations

According to *District Census Handbook of Darbhanga*, 1955, 10,13,912 persons are gainfully employed in agriculture. This constitutes roughly 25 per cent of total population. The number of self-supporting persons who derive their livelihood from non-agricultural occupations was 118,549 in 1951. Out of this 25,990 persons are employed in production other than cultivation, i.e., in industries; 29,293 are engaged in commerce; 5,516 persons are employed in transport and communications and 57,747 pesrons are employed in other services and miscellaneous occupations. Only about 4 per cent of the total population of this district is employed in non-agricultural occupations. Other services and miscellaneous occupations include Health, Education, Public Administration, Domestic Services, Personal Services, Hotels, Restaurants and Eating-houses, Legal and Business Services, Art, Journalism, Religious and other Welfare Services.

In the Census Report 1951, details regarding the level of employment in non-agricultural occupations are available. According to the Census of India, Volume V, Part II B, the level of employment in different non-agricultural occupations is as follows :—

Level of employment by classification in Darbhanga (1951)

Employment	Level of Employment
Industry and Services (Total)	1,12,961
(1) Primary Industries	3,718
(a) Animal Husbandry	1,304
(b) Plantations	22
(c) Forest and Wood cutting ...	337
(d) Fishing and Hunting	2,055
(2) Mining and Quarrying	218
(a) Coal Mining	Nil
(b) Iron-ore	3
(c) Metal Mining	215
(d) Mica Mining	Nil

Employment	Level of Employment
(3) Agricultural Products	5,946
(a) Grains and Pulses	1,126
(b) Sugar and beverages	1,803
(c) Tobacco	1,284
(d) Others	1,733
(4) Commerce	29,296
(a) Wholesale Trade	1,096
(b) Retail Trade .. Rural 18,571 } Urban 10,725 }	28,007
(c) Real Estate, Insurance and Banking ..	193
(5) Transport, Storage and Communications	6,255
(6) Health, Education and Public Administration.	6,942
(7) Domestic Services	6,512
(8) Personal Services	8,764
(9) Hotels, Restaurants and Eating-houses .. .	317
(10) Legal and Business Services	1,873
(11) Arts, Journalism, Religion and Welfare Services. ..	2,036
(12) Recreation and Unclassified Services	21,502
(13) Manufacturing Industries	..
(a) Textile Industries	7,540
(b) Leather Industries	631
(c) Ferrous and non-ferrous, metals and machinery. ..	323
(d) Chemical and Chemical products	48
(e) Non-metal Industries	2,836
(f) Other Industries	2,192
(g) Wood and Paper-products	2,538
(14) Construction, utilities and maintenance	34,738

These figures relate to the level of employment a decade back and the present level of employment would be definitely higher than this. During the two Five-Year Plans there have been some expansions of old industries and many a new factories have been opened. Trade and commerce have expanded accordingly. It can be presumed that level of employment in trade and commerce has gone up along with increase in employment in other occupations particularly in Transport and Communication, Health, Education and Public Administration, Domestic Services, Hotels, Restaurants and Eating-houses, Legal and Business Services, Welfare Services, Agricultural products and in Construction utilities and maintenance. From the list of registered factories in the State of Bihar, 1960, it can be known that employment in registered factories has gone up from 8,797 in 1951 to 9,434 in 1959.

Statistics of level of employment in different non-agricultural occupations as shown above include employment in cottage and small-scale industries, both textile and non-textile. According to District Census Handbook of Darbhanga (1955), employment in the year 1951, in small-scale cottage units not registered under the Factories Act, 1948, is as follows :—

A. Textile establishments	(number	7,671)	
(*i*) Whole-time workers	..	22,727	persons.
(*ii*) Part-time workers	..	708	"
B. Non-textile establishments	(number	3,146)	
(*i*) Whole-time workers	..	8,435	persons
(*ii*) Part-time workers	..	157	"

Employment in textile establishments is mostly in areas under Khajauli, Madhubani, Madhepur, Darbhanga and Jhanjharpur police-stations. Non-textile establishments occur in almost all parts of the district and within this group, level of employment is comparatively higher in Carpentry, Blacksmithy, Pottery, Goldsmithy, Oil-processing, Sweetmeat making, Butter-making and Cycle-repairing. The district is poor so far as large scale industries are concerned. The district has five units of super-industries which employ 3,264 persons, one unit of jute industry employing 2,796 persons, 3 units of general engineering employing 46 persons, 3 electricity generating units employing 61 persons, one biscuit-making factory employing 40 persons, and there are about 200 units of rice, dal, oil, flour and wheat-crushing mills employing about 1,200 persons.*

In trade, foodstuff including beverages and narcotics, fuel, textile and leather goods constitutes main items.

*These figures have since changed. *See* "Industries Chapter".

Level of employment in trade is of the following pattern :—

	Retail Trade		Wholesale Trade	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5
(i) Trade otherwise unclassified ..	9,650	2,356	..	..
(ii) Foodstuff (including beverages and and narcotics).	10,172	2,829	470	53
(iii) Fuel	551	352 in commodities other than foodstuff.		
(iv) Textile and Leather goods ..	1,829	268	559	14
(v) Real Estate		Total	80	10
(vi) Money-lending, Banking and other financial business.		Total ..	122	31

In Transport Storage and Communication, level of the employment has the following pattern :—

	Male	Female
(1) Transport and Communications, other unclassified and incidental services.	32	1
(2) Transport by road	2,306	461
(3) Transport by water	264	25
(4) Transport by air ..	9	..
(5) Railway transport	2,412	6
(6) Postal services	678	—
(7) Telegraph services	49	..
(8) Telephone services	16	—
(9) Wireless services	2	—

(Source . *District Census Handbook* 1954)

The figures given above relate to the year 1951 and it should be presumed that level of employment has increased in all these occupations.

Miscellaneous occupations

Public Administration including local and municipal Services.—According to *District Census Handbook*, 1951.

Level of employment in the above occupations is of the following pattern :—

(1) Police services	490	persons.
(2) Village officers and servants including village watchman	585	„
(3) Municipal and Local services	232	„
(4) Employees of State Governments	532	„
(5) Employees of Union Government	510	„

Level of employment in Public Administration has increased during the period of First and Second Five-Year Plans. Details regarding the quantitative information are not forthcoming, but it can be reasonably expected that, with expansions of activities of the Union and the State Governments and of various local bodies there, level of employment has gone up.

	Males.	Females.
Learned professions like Teachers, Doctors, Lawyers, Engineers, etc., 1951*		
1. Educational Services and Research	2,127	275
2. Medical and Health Services	1,765	361
3. Legal and Business Services	1,829	44
4. Arts, Letters and Journalism	36	Nil
5. Religious Charitable and Welfare Services	1,615	385
Domestic and Personal Services—		
1. Domestic Services	4,773	1,739
2. Barbers and Beauty Shops	3,462	894
3. Laundries and Laundry Services	2,833	1,575
4. Hotels, Restaurants and Eating-houses	311	6
5. Recreation Services	596	135*

Community Development Projects

For an all-round development of rural economy the work on Community Development Projects was started after the independence of the country. These projects try to give effect to intensive and comprehensive programmes of economic development covering all aspects of rural life. e.g., agriculture, rural industries, education, housing, health, and sanitation and recreation, etc., and aim at utilising under a democratic set up, the surplus labour force available in the rural areas for developmental purposes.

1961 Census figures not available yet (December, 1962).

In Darbhanga district, the work on Community Development Projects was started on 2nd October 1952 when four Community Development Blocks were opened in Samastipur subdivision. Subsequently 26 other blocks were opened all over the district, till 1st April 1961. In October 1960, 2 other pre-extension blocks were opened in Samastipur subdivision and 3 other blocks are to be started of which two will be in Madhubani subdivision and one in Sadar subdivision. Subdivision wise, Samastipur has 10 Community Development Blocks and two pre-extension blocks and of these three Community Development Blocks have been upgraded to stage II Blocks; Madhubani subdivision has 12 stage; I Community Development Blocks and 2 pre-extension blocks; Darbhanga Sadar has eight stage I blocks and one pre-extension block. In total the district has 30 Community Development Blocks and 5 pre-extension blocks.

A decade has elapsed since the work on Community Development Projects was started in this district and some achievements have been noticed in the field of rural welfare. It is seen that too much emphasis on welfare activities has led to lesser attention on agro-economic ones, but at the same time the welfare activities undertaken so far have aroused rural consciousness of economic and to a smaller extent of political sense. In the field of rural education progress has been marked and the number of Primary Schools, Middle Schools and Higher Secondary Schools, Agricultural institutes, etc., have increased. New school buildings have been constructed and old ones have been repaired or improved. Hostels have been constructed for the education of the backward.

In the field of health and sanitation marked improvement has been noticed. One hospital and two health centres in each Community Development Block has been opened and qualified Doctors have been provided in each block hospital. Ten hospitals belonging to *zamindars* have been taken over by the State Government. Twenty-four District Board Hospitals have also been taken over. To improve sanitation and health, tube-wells have been constructed in each village for provision of clean water to villagers.

Authorities have been trying to infuse the spirit of co-operation among the rural people. Co-operative Credit Societies have been formed to provide credit to agriculturists. Particular attention is being paid to sugarcane, weaving, housing, and co-operative societies have been started for each of these. Consumers' co-operatives have also come into existence.

In the field of agriculture, considerable improvement has been brought about by various schemes of irrigation, flood control, distribution of good seeds, manures and improved implements. Outturn of crops has been on the increase in last decade. For improvement in Animal Husbandry 27 veterinary hospitals have been opened all over the district during two plan period.

To improve and develop rural industries loans were liberally granted and the effect has been encouraging. Rice, oil and *dal* mills, carpentry, weaving, tailoring, calico printing, button making, leather industry, smithy and *khandesari* industries have been granted loan for development. To speed up the process of development, power loom schemes were started and about 150 power-looms were distributed in this district.

Main difficulties in the working of Community Development Projects are :—

(1) Apathy of the people and passivity of popular mind have hindered the progress in initial stages of the programme.

(2) The assistance given by the *panchayats* and *ad hoc* popular organisations specially set up for this purpose have been inadequate.

(3) Lack of proper planning has to a considerable extent been responsible for slow progress.

(4) The shortage of trained personnel and staff was to a considerable extent responsible for the slow progress and for various mistakes which were made.

Details of Blocks in Darbhanga district

Name of C. D. stage I & II Block	Name of Block Headquarters.	Subdivision.	Date of starting
1	2	3	4
1. Samastipur (Stage II) ..	Samastipur	Samastipur	2nd October 1952.
2. Pusa (Stage II) ..	Pusa ..	Ditto ..	Ditto.
3. Warisnagar (I) ..	Warisnagar	Ditto ..	Ditto.
4. Sarairanjan (C.D.) (II) ..	Sariaranjan	Ditto ..	Ditto.
5. Kalyanpur (Stage I) ..	Kalyanpur	Ditto ..	14th October 1955.
6 Tajpur (Stage I) .	Tajpur (Marwa)	Ditto ..	Ditto.
7. Laukhaha (Stage I) ..	Khunta ..	Madhubani	Ditto.
8. Baheri (Stage 1) ..	Baheri ..	Darbhanga	19th May 1956.
9. Laukaha (Stage I) ..	Laukaha ..	Madhubani	14th October 1955.
10. Hayaghat (Stage I) ..	Hayaghat ..	Sadar .	19th May 1956.
11. Ladania (I) ..	Ladaina ..	Madhubani	1st October 1956.
12. Jainagar (I) ..	Jainagar .	Ditto ..	Ditto.
13. Basopatti (I) ..	Basopatti .	Ditto ..	Ditto.

Name of C. D. stage I & II Block.	Name of Block Headquarters.	Subdivision.	Date of starting.
1	2	3	4
14. Biraul (I) ..	Biraul (Supaul)	Sadar ..	26th January 1957.
15. Singhwara (I) ..	Singhwara	Sadar ..	1st April 1957.
16. Harlakhi (I) ..	Umgaon ..	Madhubani	Ditto.
17. Benipatti (I) ..	Benipatti ..	Ditto ..	2nd October 1957.
18. Madhwapur (I) ..	Madhwapur	Ditto ..	Ditto.
19. Manigachi (I) ..	Manigachi ..	Sadar ..	1st April 1958.
20. Babu Barhi (I) ..	Babu Barhi	Madhubani	Ditto.
21. Keotinanway (I) ..	Keotinanway	Sadar ..	Ditto.
22. Rusora (I) ..	Rusera ..	Samastipur	1st October 1958.
23. Hasanpur (I) ..	Hasanpur	Ditto ..	1st April 1959.
24. Bisfi (I) ..	Bisfi .	Madhubani ..	Ditto.
25. Singhia (I) ..	Singhia ..	Samastipur	1st October 1959.
26. Ujiarpur (I) ..	Ujiarpur ..	Ditto ..	26th October 1959.
27. Jalloy (I) ..	Jalley ..	Sadar ..	1st October 1960.
28. Andhrathari (I) ..	Andhrathari	Madhubani	Ditto.
29. Bahora (I) ..	Bonipur ..	Sadar ..	1st April 1961.
30. Phulparas (I) ..	Phulparas ..	Madhubani	Ditto.
PRE-EXTENSION BLOCKS OPENED IN OCTOBER, 1960.			
31. Bibhutpur (Nahan) ..	Bibhutpur	Samastipur	October, 1960.
32. Mohiuddinagar ..	Mohiuddinagar	Ditto ..	Ditto.
PRE-EXTENSION BLOCKS TO BE STARTED FROM APRIL, 1961.			
33. Madhepur ..	Madhepur ..	Madhubani	
34. Rajnagar ..	Rajnagar ..	Ditto.	
35. Ghansyampur ..	Ghansyampur	Sadar.	

Role of this district in implementing Government policies.

The district of Darbhanga with a population of 4,413,027 souls, occupying an area of 3,345 sq. miles, consisting of 3,010 villages, 6 towns and one city, plays a vital role in the agricultural economy of Bihar. The fact that the district is agricultural and rural and at the same time most populous, poses big problems before the development authorities of the State and the district. Over decades demographic pressure has increased, urbanisation has been slow, non-agricultural employment scarce, small-scale and cottage industries have declined and the cumulative effect of these have been a

stagnant agriculture with widespread rural unemployment and under-employment. But the Government have been conscious of this economic stagnation since the achievement of independence and in the twelve years of planned efforts, improvements have been noticed in some sectors of the economy. Agricultural base and its supplement, i.e., cottage and small-scale industries have been the main sectors of development, the progress being in the right direction. In fact, even today, what the district needs more is the development of agriculture and cottage and small-scale industries. When there are possibilities of small-scale industries and agricultural development by utilising the internal resources of the economy, policies directed to achieve the same is of great importance in the wake of economic development of the country. Large-scale industries are not many in this district. But at the same time the district provides the nation with two important industries : Jute and Sugar which are of national importance. The former is a dollar earner, and occupies an important position in the export trade of the nation. Expansion of these industries are going on along with the schemes for establishment of new ones of paper, nails and wires, bucket manufacturing, wire drawing and many others. Among the cottage and small-scale industries, weaving and textile industry has a venerable antiquity ; other important industries are rice, *dal* and oil milling, leather, *gur*, handicrafts, *mat* industry. for which plans for development are being drawn, tried and implemented gradually.

In matters of education the district has been playing a very crucial role in implementing the policies of the Government. Spread of general education has started laying foundation for changed social behaviour, while progress in medical and agricultural education has been noticed. The Darbhanga Medical College provides the nation with doctors, while Agricultural Institutes have gone a long way to meet the requirements of growing agricultural economy. A Sanskrit University has also been established to revive the learning of our parent language.

Apart from these, developments in the field of co-operation, welfare activities, small savings have been of great importance. Co-operative movement has not met with grand success due to passivity of the popular mind but changed attitudes towards it is being noticed. In imparting help to the less privileged sections of the society the District Welfare Department is doing considerable constructive work. Small Savings Department is trying to mop up the low purchasing power in the wake of economic development of the country.

Thus, achievements have been many , but more is needed. Agricultural base is to be strengthened more to plant a self-growing economy. Along with it a planned development of economic and social investment in transport, power, public works, rural housing would go a long way for an integrated development of the economy.

CHAPTER IX

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The district formed a part of the ancient Hindu Kingdom of Mithila since its very inception. In mediaeval period also it was an integral part of Karnat rule. Raja Ganga Deva, the second king of this dynasty had founded the city of Darbhanga and removed the capital of Mithila from Simraon now in the district of Champaran, as a check upon the ravages of the Pal and Sena Kings of Bengal. For administrative facilities, Raja Ram Singh of this dynasty had divided his dominion into *Parganas* and placed them in charge of Chaudharies who were responsible for the collection of revenue and its transmissions to the royal treasury. In every village a police officer (*Stharika*) was appointed whose duty was to make a daily report of all occurrences worthy of note to the Chaudhari of the *Pargana*. He was also responsible to look after the sanitation, public works and water arrangements of the town or village. To the same period too is attributed to the origin of the system of *Patwari*, whose business was to collect the revenue of their respective villages and remit it to the Chaudharies. After the conquest by the Muslims, the sovereignty of the Rajas of Mithila remained undisturbed, so long as they paid a nominal tribute to the king, without any interference in the internal administration. Wherever, the Muslim population was in the district, *quazis* were appointed with necessary powers to administer the law of Quoram with the exception of the non-Muslim Community.

The administration of Mohammadan Government practically originated in the district when the Oinwar dynasty ceased to rule in Tirhut in 1527 A. D. Little is known about it till the conquest of the district by the emperor Akbar in 1582 A. D. when the system of administration was effectively reformed. Tirhut was for the first time annexed to the Province of Bihar as *Sarkar* or district with its headquarters at Darbhanga. The fiscal division of the *Parganas* was kept up, such as in the original, under the charge of Chaudharies. The post of four Chief Officers were, namely, *Faujdar*, *Kotwal*, the *Amin* and the *Bakhshi* to administer the affairs of the district besides the *Quazi*. The other six important officers were, namely, the *Muhtasib* (Censor of Public Morals and Superintendent of Weights and Measures), the *Sadar* (Incharge of religious and charitable endowments), the *Qanungo* (the District Registrar), the *Amin*, the *Waqaya Nawis* (the Reporter) and the *Daroghai-Adalat*.

So far as the *Faujdar* is concerned, he was responsible for the execution of Law and Order. He was next in rank to the Governor of the Province. His main responsibility was to secure the peace and tranquility of his district and to help the revenue and judicial

authorities in the peaceful discharge of their duties. He was also a military commander placed at the head of powerful contingent of military police with the help of which he maintained Law and Order within his jurisdiction. The Ain-i-Akbari gives out that he was given a contingent of 700 Cavalry and 80,000 Infantry. The *Mansabdars* (Military dignitaries) and the troops posted in the district were subordinate to the *Faujdar*.

The Police and Municipal functions were discharged by the *Kotwal* with the exception of the religious duties. He was the Superintendent of the town Police and Municipal Officer, rolled into one. He was responsible for the peace of the town as the *Faujdar* was for that of the whole district. His municipal duties were (1) to look after the sanitation and lighting arrangement of the town, (2) to allot separate quarters to butchers, hunters of animals, washers of the dead and sweepers, (3) to take an inventory of the intestate property, etc. He was answerable for the thefts and robberies committed in the town. The town was divided into different wards, each under a subordinate officer whose business was to give a daily report of persons coming and going out. With the help of a well-organised system of detectives he kept himself informed of the character of the new arrivals in the city, who were to be stationed in a separate *Sarai* meant for the purpose.

The *Muhtasib* or Market Officer was appointed for the first time in the district with its headquarters at Darbhanga in the reign of Aurangzeb. His business was particularly to take cognisance of improper behaviour, such as of indecency, drunkenness, gambling, the sale of spirituous liquors and intoxicating drugs, examination of false weights and measures, and the fixation of the price of grains and other commodities.

The *Sadr* was especially charged with the investigation of the cases of all those who applied to the sovereign for grants of revenue. He had also charge of *waqf* property or religious endowments. He was also to protect those persons to whom the lands had been given in charity. He had also to see that crown lands were not encroached upon.

The *Quanungo* was an officer in the district acquainted with the customs and land tenures and his appointment was usually hereditary. He kept registers of the value, tenure, extent and transfers of land, reported deaths and successions of revenue assessees. He received reports from *Patwaris* of new cases of alluvion and deluvion, sales, leases, gifts of lands, etc.

The main duty of the *Waqaya Nawis* (Reporter) was to record the important daily occurrences and to send the paper to the Emperor directly.

The office of the *Daroghi Adalat*, or Auditor of the Court of Justice was established for the first time in the district headquarters by Aurangzeb. The main function of this court of justice was to help the poor, defenceless and weak people. The officer was provided with a salary and a *jagir*. His business was also to sit in his tribunal from day break to three in the afternoon. The *Darogah* and his officers would present the cases to the *Faujdar* who would deliver his judgment.

The rural police administration of the Mughals was founded on the original system of the ancient Hindu institution of the village watchmen, who were maintained by the village communities in which they lived. Their duty was to guard the persons and property of the villages. For their services they were granted certain assignments of land for their maintenance. They were known as *Pasbans*, *Goraits* or *Barahils*. Besides being required to perform the duty of night guards, they were also engaged in the collection of land revenue.

Thus in place of the village community the Zamindar or the farmer of land revenue came to assume the responsibility for the maintenance of peace and tranquility within his zamindari. In cases of thefts and robberies he was to produce the thieves and robbers with the effects stolen.

As regards civil and criminal justice, the *quazi* was incharge of the canon law, both civil and criminal. He was assisted by the *Mufti*, who expounded the law applicable to cases.

In 1770, a Revenue Council was formed by the British administrators for Bihar with its headquarters at Patna for looking after the work of the supervisors. In 1772, the office of *Naib Diwan* was abolished and the Company took over the collection of the revenue. The supervisors were called Collectors for the first time and placed under the control of a Board of Revenue in Calcutta. The result of the system was disastrous form every point of view. In 1774, the European agency was again abolished and revenue collection was entrusted to *Amins* working under a Provincial Council at Patna. In 1781, the system was again changed and the Provincial Council was abolished. European Collectors were reappointed in each district but they were more of figure heads.

The scheme was over centralised and soon broke down. In 1786, a more rational scheme was adopted. The districts were organised into regular fiscal units, and the Collector in each district was made responsible for settling revenue and collecting it. Since that time the Collector became the pivot of the administration in the district though some minor modifications have been made from time to time.

In 1775, a *Faujdar* was appointed in each district to bring criminals to justice. But the *Faujdari* system of 1775 was abolished in 1781, and the powers and duties of *Faujdars* were transferred to the judges of the district courts. The criminals were, however, tried in *Faujdari* or Indian Courts under Indian Judges. In 1787, the district courts were again placed under the Collectors who were vested with powers of a Magistrate and could try criminal cases with certain limits. The Collectors could not deal with revenue cases, which were transferred to the Board of Revenue. Further changes were introduced in 1790. The experiment of making the Board of Revenue responsible for revenue cases proved a failure, and new local courts were instituted in each district under the Collector. The district criminal courts were abolished and their place was taken by Courts of Circuit.

The famous Cornwallis Code of May, 1793 ushered in a new system in Indian administration. The Collector was divested of all judicial and magisterial powers, which devolved on a new class of officers called Judges. The separate revenue courts were abolished and the Judges tried all civil cases. The net result of the changes introduced by Cornwallis was to divide the entire administration work in a district between European Officers, one acting as Collector of Revenue, and the other as a Judge and Magistrate. Indians were seldom employed in offices involving trust and responsibility.

For a period of thirty-five years the system of Cornwallis was followed. The first radical change in the system of Cornwallis was effected in 1829 by Lord William Bentinck. The new scheme of administration centred round a class of officials called Commissioners, each of whom was placed incharge of a division comprising several districts.

The district under the British was first known as Sarkar Tirhut and comprised the present districts of Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga. Darbhanga was created as a separate district in 1875. The Sadar subdivision had been created in October, 1845 when it was a part of Sarkar Tirhut. The Samastipur subdivision formerly known as the Tajpur subdivision was established in 1867 and the Madhubani subdivision was established in 1866. The three present subdivisions, namely, Sadar, Samastipur and Madhubani so existed from before Darbhanga was separated and set up as a district. The district now forms a unit in Tirhut division with the divisional headquarters at Muzaffarpur. When O'Malley published his old district Gazetteer of Darbhanga, the district was under Patna division. Tirhut division was separated in 1908 for administrative purposes.

The General Administrative set up of the district is headed by the District Magistrate who has his headquarters at Laheriasarai. The District Magistrate is under the Divisional Commissioner at Muzaffarpur.

The District Magistrate is at the apex of the administrative structure, the base of which is being more and more broadened by the development of the country side and the posting of Block Development Officers. He has been given a large number of officers to help him in the administration of the district. For revenue purposes, he has an Additional Collector, for development works a District Development Officer who remains posted at the headquarters of Darbhanga and there are three Land Reforms Deputy Collectors posted at each of the subdivisions. At the Subdivisional headquarters of each of the three subdivisions, there is a Subdivisional Magistrate incharge of Law and Order as well as revenue matters. The Subdivisional Officer has several officers under him.

There is a Superintendent of Police with headquarters at Laheriasarai. The Superintendent of Police is assisted by four Deputy Superintendents of Police. The Superintendent of Police is under the administrative control of the Deputy Inspector-General of Police of the Northern Range, whose headquarters is at Muzaffarpur.

For police purpose, the district is divided into four circles namely, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Madhubani and Khajauli.

The rural police force consists of 292 *Dafadars* and 2,905 *Chaukidars*. It will work out that one constable is meant for 15,000 to 16,000 population. The *Chaukidars* are commissioned to give round duty in their beats during the night and to apprehend criminals, if any. The details of police organisation have been given in the text on "Law, Order and Justice".

The District Magistrate is responsible for the execution of all planning schemes in the district and as the head of the District Planning Committee it is his duty to co-ordinate the functions of all the nation-building departments of the district. He is responsible for maintaining Law and Order and the smooth and efficient running of administration at the district level. There has been separation of the judiciary from the executive since 1957 and the judicial officers are now placed under the District and Sessions Judge under the administrative control of the Patna High Court.

The District Magistrate of Darbhanga had the following Gazetted Officers under him on the 1st March 1962:—

Additional Collector 1, Additional District Magistrate 1, District Development Officer 1, Senior Deputy Collector 1, Assistant Magistrate 1, Deputy Collectors 5, Sub-Deputy Collector 1, District Panchayat Officer 1, District Welfare Officer 1, District Public Relations Officer 1, Land Acquisition Officer 3, District Statistical Officer 1, Treasury

Officer 1, Personal Assistant to Collector 1, District Accounts Officer 1 and Block Development Officers-*cum*-Anchal Adhikaris 44 (distributed in the different subdivisions).

The Sadar subdivision has the following officers directly under the District Magistrate:—

Subdivisional Officer 1, Deputy Collector incharge Land Reforms and Development 1, Deputy Collector 1, Sub-Deputy Collector 1, Anchal Adhikaris and Block Development Officers 11.

The Samastipur subdivision has the following officers directly under the District Magistrate:—

Subdivisional Officer 1, Deputy Collector Incharge Land Reforms and Development 1, Railway Magistrate 1, Sub-Deputy Collectors 4, Anchal Adhikaris and Block Development Officers 14.

The Madhubani subdivision has the following officers:—

Subdivisional Officer 1, Deputy Collector incharge Land Reforms and Development 1, Deputy Collectors 2, Sub-Deputy Collectors 2, Anchal Adhikaris and Block Development Officers 12.

The District Magistrate although not the Controlling Officer of such gazetted officers as the Senior Executive Medical Officer, District Agricultural Officer, District Industries Officer, Labour Officer, District Education Officer, Anti-Malaria Officers, etc., he is expected to keep himself in touch with all the officers of different departments at the district level and those officers seek the District Magistrate's guidance in all important matters Similarly the Subdivisional Magistrates have to be closely associated with the different departmental officers at the subdivision level. This association of the District Magistrate and the Subdivisional Magistrate extend even to technical departments, such as Public Works, Electricity, Public Health and Engineering, etc.

National Planning and Community Development.

With the advent of Independence in 1947 the character of the administration of India both at the Centre and at the States underwent a great change. Maintenance of Law and Order and the collection of revenue were the main features of the administration before 1947. In place of what was more or less a Police State that pattern of a Welfare State evolved as a result of Independence. The Planning Council and the State Planning Board were constituted. The aim was to frame co-ordinated schemes for a proper development of the rural areas. A further aim was to decentralise the activities of the State which were so long mostly

concentrated at the district level. With this object Five-Year Plans were taken up. Community Development schemes were started all over the district in the First Five-Year Plan. The Second Five-Year Plan underlined the work taken up and indicated an extension. The same work has been continued in the Third Five-Year Plan.

The field of general administration in a Welfare State is much wider and the various economic plans undertaken as a part of the State policy were to be implemented through the Community Development Projects and National Extension Service Blocks. Administration of the rural development projects and guidance of the decentralisation schemes underlining the importance of the villages became very important in general administration.

The whole of Darbhanga district is being covered by the Blocks. There are 44 Blocks-*cum*-Anchals in this district, which are located at Darbhanga Sadar, Hayaghat, Jale, Keoti, Bahadurpur, Ghoghardiha, Benipur, Biraul, Bahera, Singhwara, Manigachi (Sadar subdivision), Samastipur, Sarairanjan, Ujiarpur, Pusa, Morwa, Patory, Mohiuddinagar, Dalsingsarai, Bibhutpur, Kalyanpur, Kushesharasthan, Singia, Rusera, Hasanpur, Kishanpur (Samastipur subdivision), Madhubani, Bisfi, Pandaul, Raj Nagar, Benipatti, Jhanjharpur, Khajauli, Babubarhi, Khutauna, Jaynagar, Madhepur, Madhwapur, Ladania, Harlakhi, Basopatti, Andharathari and Laukahi (Madhubani subdivision).

A Block covers a number of specified villages with a headquarters and usually the name of the Block is after the name of the headquarters village. There is a Block Development Officer with a number of other officers under him such as a Doctor, a Statistical Supervisor, an Animal Husbandry man, a Social Organiser, etc. The Block Development Officer is entrusted with the working of the schemes and projects sanctioned and also to evolve schemes and projects for an all-round development of the villages under him. He is not to be entrusted with judicial work so that he can devote his whole time for an intensive co-ordinated rural development of the area with the active participation of the people. If a Block Development Officer cannot draw out the co-operation of the people he has failed in his object.

THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE AND HIS OFFICE.

The District Magistrate from the very beginning of the present set up of the administration in the district and from the days of British rule was treated as the very pivot of the set up. At first a promoted 'writer', later a covenanted hand and then a member of the Indian Civil Service or the Provincial Civil Service, the District Magistrate who was also the Collector was the officer who counted most. There was a time when the District Magistrate

not only actively looked after the general administration, law and order but also the post offices and the hospitals. For a long time he was the Chairman of the District Board and looked after the roads, rural sanitation and health, village education and arboriculture. With the growing complexity of administration there have been ramifications and special officers for some of the administrative departments were appointed. Thus the District Magistrate came to be helped by a gazetted Superintendent of Excise for the administration of Excise affairs, a Superintendent of Police for running the police administration, District Sub-Registrar for the registration of documents, a Superintendent of Jail for running the day-to-day jail administration, a Civil Surgeon to run the medical departments, etc. He was given a number of gazetted officers who were magistrates of various ranks for running the core of the administration. They were both Judicial and Revenue Officers and were designated as Deputy Magistrates and Collectors. Young officers of the Indian Civil Service after a period of training used to be posted as Joint Magistrates till they could be made District Magistrates.

Even with the creation of posts for high-powered officers like the Superintendent of Police or the Subdivisional Officers incharge of subdivisions, to whom considerable devolution of powers was made, the overall administrative supervision and responsibility remained with the District Magistrate. The District Magistrate was the link with the State.

So far as the subdivision is concerned the Subdivisional Officer is the executive head of his subdivision. His headquarters are within his subdivision. He holds in him the same type of functions and responsibilities as the District Magistrate but is under the administrative control of the District Magistrate.

The office of the District Magistrate known as the Collectorate had continued the same type of pattern from almost the beginning of the district administration. The Slacke Committee (1905) was set up to draw a comprehensive scheme for improving the position of the ministerial officers and to set up a pattern for staffing the Collectorates. The pattern that was set up followed the needs at that time. The English Office in the Collectorate was the clearing house of the District Magistrate's administration and every letter went to the English Office and had to be treated in the various departments concerned but under the control of the English Office. Apart from the Confidential section there were separate criminal and revenue departments and the Office Superintendent was at the head of the ministerial officers. Each of the Departments in the Collectorate like English Office, Establishment, *Nazarat*, Tauji and Cess, Land Registration, Treasury, etc., was put under a Deputy or a Sub-Deputy Collector or an Assistant Magistrate or a Joint Magistrate who belonged to the Indian Civil Service.

Practically every Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector or an Assistant or Joint Magistrate at the district headquarters was burdened with criminal cases and other multifarious duties. The magistrate incharge could not devote much time to see day to day working of his department or to carry out the instructions. The Manuals or Codes for the various departments were compiled decades before and laid down quite a fool-proof arrangement involving regular inspections, cross checks and periodical transfers of the ministerial head and the Deputy Collector incharge. The heavy work stood on the way of implementing all that was required. The exigency of the Second Great War led to the creation of many temporary sections and hundreds of temporary hands had to be recruited.

Many of the temporary departments that had been created because of circumstances brought in by the Second Great War closed down at the proper time. Some of the like Supply Department had to be continued in some shape or other. The change-over from the Police State to a Welfare State brought in a number of new departments which the District Magistrate has to look after.

The administrative set up has had to change very considerably because of the abolition of zamindari in 1954. This has led to the creation of Land Reforms Section in every Collectorate under an Additional Collector who has to be controlled again by the District Magistrate. The setting up of the *Panchayats* and devolution of powers to the *Gram Panchyats* does not absolve the Collector in any way and he has to co-ordinate their work as well. It is true that the District Magistrate has now been given an Additional District Magistrate, an Additional Collector, a District Development Officer, but his responsibility has not declined and he is till remaining, as he was a century before, the most important officer in the district with wide powers and colossal responsibilities.

Registration Office.

The District Sub-Registrar is the administrative head of the Registration Department under the immediate control of the District Registrar. The Inspector-General of Registration, Patna is the head of the department. There are 13 Sub-Registry offices in the district at Laheriasarai (Sadar subdivision), Kamtaul (Sadar subdivision), Bahera (Sadar subdivision), Jhanjharpur (Madhubani subdivision), Phulparas (Madhubani subdivision), Madhubani, Benipatti (Madhubani subdivision), Khajauli (Madhubani subdivision), Jaynagar (Madhubani subdivision), Samastipur, Kishanpur (Samastipur subdivision), Dalsingsarai (Samastipur subdivision) and Rasera (Samastipur subdivision).

The District Sub-Registrar assists the District Magistrate in supervising the work of the Sub-Registry offices in the district.

The District Sub-Registrar's office at the headquarters of the district has got a big record room where there are many registers and indices of all Sub-Registry offices situated in the district. Registers and books contain copies of documents registered since 1800 A. D. Strict secrecy with regard to the contents of documents copied in the register books is maintained as in doing so it yields good income to the Government in the shape of searching and copying fees.

The statistics below would show the number of documents registered, receipts and expenditure of the district from 1950 to 1961:—

Year.		Documents registered.	Receipts in rupees.	Expenditure in rupees.
1950	..	1,21,404	7,12,538	1,89,862
1951	..	1,29,228	7,26,619	2,15,889
1952	..	1,06,103	6,06,922	1,80,253
1953	..	1,11,939	6,04,461	1,94,558
1954	..	96,557	5,23,059	1,87,973
1955	..	82,254	4,05,472	1,82,331
1956	..	1,01,647	5,18,086	1,86,122
1957	..	1,15,699	6,00,363	2,01,844
1958	..	1,33,589	6,82,923	2,11,576
1959	..	1,29,174	6,98,87	2,16.511
1960	..	1,31,821	7,42,174	2,12,504
1961	..	1,41,427	8,49,705	2,21,565

The increase and decrease in the number of registration is due to variations in economic incidence, passing of new laws like the abolition of Zamindari, measures like granting of loans, etc. The statistics could be treated as an index to the economic incidence of that year to some extent. From the documents also an

idea could be had of the fluctuations of price of land of different types. The documents registered in 1960 show that lands in the towns of Darbhanga and Laheriasarai have been sold at Rs. 1,000 to 2,000 per *katha* and for Rs. 500 to 1,500 in the town of Madhubani and for Rs. 1,000 to 2,000 at the town of Samastipur. The paddy lands have been sold for Rs. 1,000 to 3,000 per *bigha* in Sadar subdivision and for Rs. 2,000 to 3,500 per *bigha* in Madhubani subdivision and for Rs. 2,500 to 3,500 in Samastipur subdivision.

The documents also show us where lands are higher priced. It was found that lands in the *thanas* of Laheriasarai and Darbhanga in Sadar subdivision are high-priced than the lands in Bahora and Hayaghat areas. It is found that lands in Madhubani, Jaynagar and Phulparas Police Stations are high priced than Harlakhi and Madhwapur Police *thana* areas. In parts of the Samastipur subdivision the valuation of land is the highest. This subdivision produces cash crops, namely, Chillies, Turmeric, Tobacco, Sugarcane, etc.

The following statistics supplied by District Sub-Registrar's office will show the average acreage valuation of land and the sale of land in acres from 1952 to 1961 :—

Year.	Land sold in acre.	Valuation of land in rupees.	Average valuation of land per acre in rupees.
1952	30,175	2,48,22,491	820
1953 ..	67,514	2,20,86,840	3,270
1954 ..	58,209	2,27,67,477	3,910
1955 ..	49,356	1,63,47,066	3,510
1956 ..	66,015	1,95,02,085	2,940
1957 ..	78,116	2,62,99,312	3,360
1958 ..	83,249	3,17,57,419	3,810
1959 ..	86,533	3,19,39,067	3,859
1960 ..	88,461	3,43,10,071	3,870
1961 ..	87,192	4,19,81,165	4,810

From the above statistics it can be observed that during 1952 the average valuation of per acre land was Rs. 8.20 which increased up to Rs. 4,810 during 1961. This shows the great demand of land and the shooting up of the price.

Agriculture Department.

The District Agriculture Officer, is under the direct control of the Deputy Director of Agriculture with his headquarters at Muzaffarpur and the latter is under the Director of Agriculture with his headquarters at Patna.

The District Agriculture Officer exercises his control over, the implementation of the agricultural programme in the district through the three Subdivisional Agricultural Officers posted at Darbhanga Sadar, Samastipur, and Madhubani. The Subdivisional Agricultural Officers are assisted by three Additional Subdivisional Agricultural Officers with their headquarters at Darbhanga Sadar, Samastipur and Madhubani. The Additional Subdivisional Officers are to look after the management of the Government Farms.

The District Agriculture Officer is assisted by a-team of subject matter specialists in Agronomy, Botany, Horticulture, Chemistry, Engineering, Jute Inspection, Marketing Inspection and Fisheries. Their job is to train the Village Level Workers and to collect information regarding the local problems with which the Agriculture Extension Supervisors, the Village Level Workers and the cultivators come across during the implementation of the agricultural programme and communicate them to the Regional Research Station, Dholi (Muzaffarpur) for providing practical solutions. The Subdivisional Agricultural Officer is also assisted by a team of especially trained staff in Fisheries, Horticulture and Jute Cultivation.

Field trials on fertilisers to find out the appropriate doses for different localities are also conducted throughout the district with the help of Field Assistants, posted in subdivisions and one Agriculture Inspector of Field Experimental Service under the District Agricultural Officer,.

At the Blocks there are Agricultural Extension Supervisor to look after agricultural programme. They are under the administrative control of the Block Development Officers.

There are 34 Seed Multiplication Farms of 25 acres each in this district. There is a Subdivisional Agricultural Farm at Madhubani and a District Experimental Farm at Laheriasarai. There is a Sugarcane Research Station at Pusa.

There are a Plant Protection Inspector, one Plant Protection Supervisor and a team of Field Operators to work against crop pests and diseases. They also manage a godown from where

pesticides, sprays and dusters are sold to the cultivators. The details of the working of the department have been dealt with in the chapter 'Agriculture and Irrigation'.

Irrigation Department.

The Irrigation Department of Darbhanga has three divisions, namely, (1) Darbhanga Waterways Division, Laheriasarai, (2) Jhanjharpur Waterways Division, Laheriasarai and (3) Kamla Anicut Division, Jaynagar. These three divisions are under the charge of Executive Engineers with their headquarters at Laheriasarai and Jaynagar. They are under the direct control of the Superintending Engineer, Waterways Circle, Laheriasarai with headquarters at Laheriasarai and this circle is under the control of the Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department with headquarters at Patna.

The Darbhanga Waterways Division has three subdivisions with their headquarters at Laheriasarai, Singia and Hayaghat. The Jhanharpur Waterways Division has four subdivisions and their headquarters are at Khajauli, Jhanjharpur I, Jhanjharpur II and Madhubani. The Kamla Anicut Division has three subdivisions, namely, Guide Bank subdivision, Jaynagar, Anicut subdivision, Jaynagar and Mechanical subdivision, Jaynagar. The Singia, Khajauli, Madhubani and Mechanical subdivision, Jaynagar are under the control of Senior Overseers and the rest six subdivisions are under the control of Assistant Engineers.

The main object of the creation of the division was to construct drainage canal for reclaiming *Chaur* land, to irrigate unproductive land through canals and tube-wells, and to construct major embankments to control floods.

There is a post of Executive Engineer of Unified Minor Irrigation with his headquarters at Laheriasarai under Agriculture Department. He is the only Officer to look after the Minor Irrigation work in the district.

Public Works Department.

The Public Works Department of the Darbhanga disrict has two divisions with headquarters at Laheriasarai and Darbhanga. These divisions are functioning under Executive Engineers with their headquarters at Laheriasarai and Darbhanga. They are under the direct control of a Superintending Engineer with his headquarters at Darbhanga. The Chief Engineer, Bihar with his headquarters at Patna is the technical and administrative head of the Department.

The main duties of the Executive Engineers are to supervise the execution of the schemes, to look after the work of the Subdivisional Officers under him, to control expenditure and make payments to contractors.

The Darbhanga Division with its headquarters at Laheriasarai has three subdivisions, namely, Darbhanga subdivision having 3 sections, viz. (1) Laheriasarai section I, section II and section III, (2) Sakri subdivision having under its Sakri section Jhanjharpur section and Khutauna section, (3) Madhubani subdivision with Madhubani section, Rajagar section and Benipatti section under it. These three subdivisions are under the charge of three Subdivisional Officers with their headquarters at Laheriasarai, Madhubani and Sakri.

There are nine Sectional Officers under the divisions to supervise the execution of work under the guidance of the Subdivisional Officers and Overseers who are responsible for the management and execution of work within their respective jurisdictions.

The Darbhanga Division, which was created in 1961 with headquarters at Darbhanga, is divided into three subdivisions, namely, Samastipur subdivision, Construction subdivision no. I and Construction subdivision no. II. The Samastipur subdivision is divided into four sections, namely, Mohuddinagar, Rusera, Samastipur and Sarairanjan. Construction subdivision no. I is divided into two sections, namely, Mechanical section I and Mechanical section II (temporary). Construction subdivision no. II is divided into three sections, namely, Laheriasarai section II, Kusheshwarsthan section and Pusa section. There are three Subdivisional Officers, one is posted at Samastipur and two are at Laheriasarai. They are assisted by Overseers. There are nine Sectional Officers to supervise the execution of work under the guidance of Subdivisional Officers.

Education Department.

The District Education Officer with his head office at Laheriasarai controls the Education Department at the district level. The Regional Deputy Director of Education with his headquarters at Muzaffarpur is the immediate superior of the District Education Officer The Director of Public Instruction with his headquarters at Patna is the Head of the Department at the State level. The District Education Officer is assisted by a number of Officers in running his department.

Each subdivision is placed under the charge of a Subdivisional Education Officer with the headquarters at each of the Subdivisional headquarters.

At the district level the District Education Officer is assisted by the District Superintendent of Education, District Social Education Organiser, Deputy Superintendent of Physical and Basic Education with their headquarters at Laheriasarai Besides, there is one Deputy Superintendent of Basic Education at Samastipur. There is a District Inspectress of Schools at Laheriasarai.

There are five Deputy Inspectors of Schools with their headquarters at Laheriasarai, Samastipur, Madhubani, Rusera and Jhanjharpur. There are 60 Sub-Inspectors of Schools in the district who are responsible for the educational activities in their respective circles. There are two Deputy Inspectresses of Schools in the district, one at Samastipur and another at Madhubani.

Public Health Engineering Department

The Public Health Engineering Department was created in 1955 with its headquarters at Darbhanga. An Executive Engineer is the head of the Department and he is under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer with his headquarters at Muzaffarpur. The headquarters of the Chief Engineer is at Patna. There are four Overseers who are posted at Darbhanga Sadar, at Laheriasarai and at Madhubani to assist the Executive Engineer.

There are four subdivisions, namely, whole Darbhanga district, whole Sitamarhi subdivision of Muzaffarpur district and the area under Nirmali Police Station in Saharsa district.

The main object of the creation of this division was to sink tube-wells as a flood relief measure for the population living in rural areas under its jurisdiction, to execute the work of Town Water Supply Scheme, Darbhanga, to execute the work of extension of water supply in Pusa Estate and to execute the work of water supply scheme for expansion of Darbhanga Medical College and Hospital at Laheriasarai.

Co-operative Department

The Co-operative Department of Darbhanga district is divided into three circles, namely, Laheriasarai Circle, Madhubani Circle and Samastipur Circle. Each circle is under the charge of one Assistant Registrar with headquarters at Laheriasarai, Madhubani and Samastipur respectively.

Their divisional head is the Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Muzaffarpur. The Deputy Registrar is under the Registrar whose headquarters is at Patna. There are Community Development Blocks functioning in these three circles. One Inspector, Co-operative Societies designated as Co-operative Extension Supervisor and one Local Auditor, Co-operative Societies are posted at each of the Blocks.

To meet the credit needs of the members of the various types of Co-operative Societies scattered over the whole of the district, there are three Co-operative Banks at Laheriasarai, Samastipur and Madhubani. These Co-operative Banks are under the control of Managers whose headquarters are at Laheriasarai, Samastipur ' and

Madhubani. There is also one Land Mortgage Bank functioning in the district located at Laheriasarai. It is under the charge of a Manager.

Industry Department

The District Industries Officer, Darbhanga with his headquarters at Laheriasarai is under the direct control of the Director of Industries, Bihar with his headquarters at Patna. There are three Inspectors of Industries posted at Darbhanga Sadar, Madhubani and Samastipur. Besides, there are nineteen Industrial Extension Supervisors posted at various Community Development Blocks of this district. The main function of this Department is to industrialise the whole district by opening small and large industries in villages and towns.

There are three technical institutes namely, Engineering School. Industrial Training Institute and a Women's Industrial School running at Darbhanga town. There is one Industrial Estate in Darbhanga Sadar in which four Government schemes besides other private units are running, namely, Model Blacksmithy Training-*cum*-Production Centre, Saw Mill--*cum*-Mechanical Carpentry Unit, Footwear Unit and Sports Goods Scheme. Besdies, these, there are six private units in the Estate, namely, M/s. Kunjwal Enterprise, M/s. Hanuman Metal Works, M/s. Nirman Wood Works, M/s. North Bihar Industries Corporation, M/s Asha Engineering Works and M/s. M. D. Lal and Sons.

There are training centres at Pusa for training in blacksmithy and carpentry. There is also an Eri Silk Demonstration Centre there.

The details regarding industries can be seen in the chapter on 'Industries'.

Commercial Taxes Department

The Darbhanga circle of the Commercial Taxes was created in 1944 and the area of the circle coincides with the area of the revenue district of Darbhanga comprising Sadar, Samastipur and Madhubani subdivisions. The sub-circles at Samastipur and Madhubani were created in the years 1948 and 1952 respectively. The controlling head of this department is the Commissioner with his headquarters at Patna. The Superintendent of Commercial Taxes is the administrative head of the circle. The Additional Superintendent is the administrative head of the Samastipur subdivision and the Assistant Superintendent of Madhubani subdivision circles respectively. There are one Assistant Superintendent and two Inspectors to assist the Superintendent in the assessment of taxes and enquiries in respect of dealers. The Additional

Superintendent of Samastipur is assisted by two Assistant Superintendents and one Inspector and the Assistant Superintendent at Madhubani Sub-Circle is assisted by two Inspectors only.

The Department is concerned with the assessment and realisation of the following taxes :—

(1) *Agricultural Income-tax.*—It was levied in 1938 under the Bihar Agricultural Income-tax Act, 1938, but its administration was first taken over by the Commercial Taxes Department in 1944-45. The collection from the tax reached its peak in 1950-51 when it rose to Rs. 15,52,817 which was mainly due to enhancement in the rate of tax. In 1955-56 it recorded a big fall to Rs. 11,65,020. The reason for it was mainly due to taking over the zamindari by the State Government and the bad economic condition of the agriculturists in general.

(2) *Bihar Sales Tax.*—It was introduced in the State from 1944-45. In 1960-61 the collection from this tax amounted to Rs. 20,60,497. The collection in 1953-54, 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57 in this circle amounted to Rs. 18,71,848, Rs. 22,82,759, Rs. 22,57,374 and Rs. 22,57,014 respectively. The reason for downward and upward trends during the aforesaid years was mainly owing to the deregistration of a large number of dealers consequent upon the raising of the registrable limit from over Rs. 10,000 to over Rs 15,000 from 1954.

(3) *Central Sales Tax.*—Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 was introduced in Bihar from the 1st July 1956 and collection from this tax during the year 1957-58 was Rs. 2,28,091 and during the year 1960-61 was Rs. 2,17,586.

(4) *Entertainment Tax.*—The administration of the tax was taken over by the Commercial Taxes Department in 1948-49. Its collection shows rise in 1959-60 and 1960-61 where there had been collection of Rs. 2,86,737 and Rs. 2,93,211 respectively during these two years. In years 1953-54 to 1954-55 the collection under this Act shows a fall which is mainly due to arrear in collection.

(5) *Electricity Duty.*—It was first levied in the district in 1948-49. The collection from this tax reached its peak in 1960-61, rose to Rs. 1,28,143 as compared with 1959-60 which was Rs. 1,03,520 only. This increase was due to rise in duty.

(6) *Motor Spirit Sales Tax.*—Before 1949 this tax was realised by the Excise Department. In 1957-58 the total receipt from this tax amounted to Rs. 1,12,823. Since then there had been constant rise in collection which rose to Rs. 1,51,840 in 1960-61. This was partly due to rise in duty and the gradual improvement in the condition of the roads of the district.

(7) *Passengers and Goods Transport Tax.*—It was levied for the first time in 1950. During the year 1950-51 the total yield from the tax was Rs. 1,065. It has shown upward tendency since then. The increase was mainly due to realisation of outstanding arrear dues.

The statistics of receipts under Commercial Taxes Department from 1950-51 to 1960-61 are given below:—

Year.	Agricultural Income Tax.	Bihar Sales Tax.	Central Sales Tax.	Entertainment Tax.	Electricity Duty.	Motor Spirit.	Passenger and Goods Transport.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1950-51 .. .	15,52,817	23,51,597	..	1,98,668	40,610	35,529	Not available.
1951-52	5,25,166	24,76,527	..	1,58,509	43,410	36,885	1,065
1952-53	6,26,562	20,88,110	..	1,50,709	50,940	41,904	2,153
1953-54 ..	4,48,252	18,71,848	..	1,49,631	62,074	59,218	6,959
1954-55	2,17,353	22,82,759	..	1,90,940	64,341	66,582	8,034
1955-56	1,65,620	22,57,374	..	1,64,818	64,727	68,500	7,142
1956-57 .. .	2,62,414	22,57,614	..	2,36,470	68,559	90,652	11,575
1957-58	2,88,265	23,74,604	2,28,091	2,41,255	85,175	1,12,823	13,246
1958-59	3,28,204	22,13,917	1,29,605	2,65,353	1,00,479	1,29,443	2,64,433
1959-60	4,31,452	19,87,426	1,80,375	2,86,737	1,03,520	1,29,747	34,123
1960-61	7,50,223	20,60,497	2,17,386	2,93,211	1,28,145	1,51,840	13,157

Public Relations Department

Prior to 1952 the Public Relations Department was known as the Publicity Department. There is a Public Relations Officer with his headquarters at Laheriasarai. He is assisted by an Assistant Public Relations Officer with his headquarters at Samastipur.

The District Public Relations Officer and Assistant Public Relations Officer are under the immediate control of the District Magistrate. These Officers have the responsibility to spread information of the development works that have been or are being carried out in the district and to enlist popular co-operation.

The Department also helps in the cultural uplift of the people by music and drama, exhibitions, etc. Under the Community Listening Scheme, radio sets are distributed by the Department to villages having population of 1,000 and above. During the period from February, 1956 to 1962, 832 sets have been distributed in the district.

A mobile publicity van is stationed at Laheriasarai and is incharge of the Public Relations Officer. The van is equipped with a projector. It is taken throughout the district and free film shows and talks are arranged on various nation building subjects including agriculture, cattle improvement, health, village industries education, civil duties, Five-Year Plans, etc The films for exhibition are mostly produced by the Directorate of Publicity, while a few of them are borrowed from the films division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India or other film producing agencies. The films are both instructive and entertaining. The District Public Relations Officer also gives talks explaining Government policies and programmes particularly in the rural areas. The films are mostly shown at the time of *melas*, fairs, and when epidemic diseases break out.

There is an Information Centre at Laheriasarai where several daily newspapers, magazines, etc., are kept for public consumption. There is a library attached to the Information Centre. There are about 1,500 books in Hindi, English and Urdu. The Information Centre and the Library are open to all.

Stamps

There is a Treasury Officer belonging to the Finance Service at the District Treasury Office, Laheriasarai. Besides there are Treasury Officers at Madhubani and Samastipur with their headquarters at Madhubani and Samastipur respectively. The Officers are under the direct control of the Collector.

The revenue from the sale of stamps is an important source of income to the State Government,

The statistics of receipt from sale of judicial and non-judicial stamps from 1901-1902 to 1910-1911 and from 1952 to 1960-61 are given below but those from 1911-1912 to 1951-52 are not available·—

Year.	Judicial.	Non-Judicial.	Total.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1901-02	2,86,012	64,272	3,50,284
1902-03	3,07,653	71,934	3,79,587
1903-04	2,84,109	65,179	3,49,288
1904-05	2,82,642	71,978	3,54,620
1905-06	3,07,000	78,000	3,85,000
1906-07	3,58,916	92,811	4,51,757
1907-08	3,67,612	95,543	4,63,155
1908-09	3,74,087	1,10,963	4,85,050
1909-10	3,31,465	98,688	4,30,153
1910-11	3,81,084	88,802	4,69,886
1911-12 to 1951-52.	Not available	Not available	Not available.
1952-53	7,55,704	10,64,034	18,19,738
1953-54	7,59,201	9,38,196	17,97,397
1954-55	9,60,902	7,78,446	14,06,348
1955-56	6,33,230	8,68,056	15,01,286
1956-57	6,22,901	9,61,826	15,84,727
1957-58	6,39,594	12,36,063	18,75,657
1958-59	6,46,282	11,84,328	18,30,610
1959-60 .. - ..	6,75,733	13,00,714	19,76,447
1960-61 -	7,23,180	15,43,542	22,66,722

The revenue from stamps ranks next in importance as a source of income to that derived from Excise. During the ten years ending in 1910-11 it increased enormously rising from Rs. 2,86,000 to Rs. 3,81,000. Regarding the increase in the 10-year period ending in 1905-06. L.S.S.O'Malley in the last *District Gazetteer* (1907).

mentioned that it was mainly due to the growing demand for judicial stamps, which brought in Rs. 3,07,000 as compared with Rs. 1,45,000 in 1895-96 ; the receipts from that source had thus been doubled in the ten years. The sale of court-fee stamps, which in 1905-06 realised Rs. 2,80,000 was by far the most important item in the receipts from judicial stamps. Among non-judicial stamps, impressed stamps account for Rs. 73,000 or nearly the whole of the receipts under that head.

He further mentioned that the sale of court-fee stamps grew by nearly 80 per cent in the quinquennium ending in 1904-05, an increase greater than in any other Bihar district. The increase in their sale had been caused by the general growth of litigation which had occurred since the completion of the survey and settlement operations. The sale of impressed stamps on the other hand, did not increase, and the total receipts during the quinquennium were slightly less than in the preceding five years. That small decrease was possibly due to the fact that land was not so much in demand as in the previous quinquennium in which famine prevailed.

From the statistics before it will be observed that in 1910-11 the receipt from the sale of stamps was Rs. 4,69,886 which increased up to Rs. 18,19,738, i.e., after 40 years in 1952-53. The increase was mainly due to the growing demand of judicial and non-judicial stamps both. The increase also caused by the general growth of litigation and sale of lands.

There was decrease during 1954-55 and 1955-56 due to decrease in number of general cases and devastation caused by heavy flood From 1959-60 the receipt has again gone up.

Waste Land Reclamation Department.—Since 1949 a Waste Land Reclamation Officer has been working for reclamation of waste lands under the control of the District Magistrate. He is also under the control of the Director of Waste Land Reclamation, Bihar, whose headquarters is at Patna. The Department is under the Revenue Department, Government of Bihar.

Land Improvement Loan is advanced to the cultivators for reclaiming their waste lands while Agriculturist Loan is advanced to enterprising cultivators for the purchase of tractors and other agricultural implements for mechanised cultivation. During 1960-61, Rs. 45,000 was distributed as Land Improvement Loan to the cultivators and Rs. 21,500 was distributed to the cultivators for purchase of tractors and other implements.

Reclamation work has also been taken up by the State Tractor Organisation in Kosi free areas of this district. Since 1948-49 to 1960-61, 12,278 acres of waste-land are said to have been reclaimed

by manual labour through assistance of Land Improvement Loans and 500 acres of waste lands have been reclaimed by the State tractors. The actual contribution of this section could not be found out as there has not been any follow up study if the reclamation has added to supplementary produce. It may be that there has been some leakage of the loans.

District Panchayat Office —This is under a District Panchayat Officer with his headquarters at Laheriasarai under the control of the District Magistrate. At the divisional level the Regional Deputy Director is the administrative head with his headquarters at Muzaffarpur and at the State level the Director of *Grampanchayat* is the administrative head with his headquarters at Patna.

There are 23 *Gram Panchayat* Supervisors with their headquarters at Darbhanga Sadar, Laheriasarai, Hayaghat, Singhwara, Benipur, Biraul, Kooti, Samastipur, Saraïranjan, Mohiuddinagar, Rusera, Singia, Bibhutpur, Pusa, Madhubani, Jaynagar, Benipatti, Madhwapur, Babubarhi, Ghoghardiha, Jhanjharpur, Ladania and Khajauli.

Till the end of 1961, the *Gram Panchayat* Department has been able to form 853 *Grampanchayats* covering the total area of this district. Of the 853 *Panchayats*, 820 have been duly notified by the Government. Out of 820 Notified *Grampanchayats* election has been completed in 631 *Panchayats* and 631 *Gram Kachaharies* have also been established. In these notified *Grampanchayats*, 770 *Gramsewaks* have been appointed. The *Gramsewaks* already appointed have been posted in the *Panchayats*, where they are giving due assistance to the *Panchayat Mukhiyas* in their day-to-day work.

The *Grampanchayat* Department constructed 54 *Panchayat* houses, 356 wells, 11 community halls and opened 27 libraries. The *Panchayats* constructed 74 miles of road and repaired 372 miles of road. About 6,631 persons have become literate up till (1961 December) through the night schools which are maintained by the *Grampanchayats*. About 114 schools have been established by the *Panchayats*.

About 22,549 civil and criminal cases were instituted in *Gram Kachaharies* of which 12,367 cases are disposed of. Details of the working of this office have been given in the text on 'Local Self-Government'.

District Welfare Office.—The District Welfare Officer with his headquarters at Laheriasarai works under the District Magistrate. There is an Assistant Welfare Officer, with headquarters at Laheriasarai, to assist the District Welfare Officer. Besides, a Welfare Inspector has been posted in each Block for the welfare work in it. The Secretary of the Welfare Department is the administrative head of the Welfare Department.

The Welfare Department is gaining importance now-a-days due to various welfare programmes covered in the First, Second and Third Five-Year Plans.

The Welfare Department is reported to have constructed 6 tube-wells and 36 wells during the first Five-Year Plan. During Second Five-Year Plan 121 tube-wells and 15 wells for the Harijans were constructed. During First and Second Five-Year Plans 96 houses were constructed at the cost of Rs. 55,950 for the Harijans. Besides some grain *golas* and Harijan schools have also been opened by the Department. The Department aims at launching various other plans for the uplift of the down-trodden people.

Labour Office.—The District Labour Officer, Darbhanga with his headquarters at Darbhanga is under the direct control of the Divisional Assistant Labour Commissioner with his headquarters at Muzaffarpur.

There are two Inspecting Labour Officers, one posted at Darbhanga Sadar and the other at Samastipur. There are seven Labour Inspectors posted at Darbhanga, Madhubani, Jaynagar, Bahera, Rusera, Samastipur and Ghoghardiha. They assist the Labour Officer and the Inspecting Officers in their work. Besides there is a Statistical Inspector at Darbhanga Sadar.

The main duties of the Labour Officer are to promote harmonious relations and act as Liaison Officer between the workers and the managements, to get the grievances and complaints of workers with regard to their working conditions redressed, to bring the breaches of labour laws, orders and statutory obligations concerning the health, safety and welfare of the workers to the notice of the manager or the occupier, and to take suitable steps for the provision of amenities such as canteens, shelters, latrine facilities and drinking water, etc., by the management. He is to conciliate the strained relations between the workers and the management.

Animal Husbandry Department

The District Animal Husbandry Officer, Darbhanga with his headquarters at Darbhanga is incharge of the Animal Husbandry Department in the district. He is under the administrative control of the Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry, Muzaffarpur and the Director of Animal Husbandry with his headquarters at Patna. The District Animal Husbandry Officer is assisted by Subdivisional Animal Husbandry Officers who are posted at Samastipur, Madhubani and Darbhanga Sadar.

In Blocks the District Animal Husbandry Officer is assisted by his Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Supervisors whose strength

is 32 out of which 12 are posted at Madhubani subdivision, 12 at Samastipur subdivision and 8 at Sadar subdivision. The Animal Husbandry Supervisor at the Block has some assistants.

During the First Five-Year Plan four schemes were taken up, namely, opening of the Artificial Insemination Centres and Sub-Centres, Hospital and Dispensary (Class I Veterinary Dispensary), distribution of bulls and opening of key-villages in Bihar. During Second Five-Year Plan nine additional schemes were started. Some of the important schemes are described below :—

(1) *Scheme concerning improvement of breeds.*—To improve the local breeds of cattle the two schemes, namely, Bull Distribution and Artificial Insemination were in operation :—

A. *Bull Distribution Scheme.*—This scheme was started in First Five-Year Plan and also had been taken up in the Second Five-Year Plan. Under this scheme, *Hariana* bulls were distributed in each block and in rural areas. In First Five-Year Plan 50 bulls and in Second Five-Year Plan 300 bulls were distributed.

B. *Artificial Insemination Scheme.*—This scheme was started in the First Five-Year Plan and during this period 5 Artificial Insemination Centres were opened at Darbhanga Sadar, Bahera, Samastipur, Madhubani and Jaynagar. During the Second Five-Year Plan two Artificial Insemination Centres were opened at Benipatti and Khutauna blocks. These seven Artificial Insemination Centres are divided into 22 sub-centres.

(2) *Quarantine Check Post.*—This scheme was started in the Second Five-Year Plan. Two quarantine check-posts were started at Harlakhi and Padma near Nepal *tarai* to vaccinate the animals coming from Nepal to India against rinderpest which is a very common and fatal disease for animals.

(3) *Poultry Development.*—Under this scheme one Poultry Development Centre at Pusa and one Poultry Hatching Centre at Kalyanpur were started during Second Five-Year Plan. Eggs are hatched and distributed for bettering the breed of the birds.

(4) *Fodder Development.*—Under this scheme different types of cuttings and seeds of fodder were distributed to the farmers free of cost during the First Five-Year Plan and Second Five-Year Plan. Besides this at each block headquarters in two acres of land of different types of fodder grass, namely, Napier, Para and Barseem have been introduced in the fodder demonstration plots. There is a great dearth of fodder and the scheme aims at improving the fodder position.

5. *Cattle Show.*—To encourage the cattle owners for improving their livestock, one cattle show at each block is organised annually and an annual district cattle show is held at Darbhanga.

6. (*a*) *Provincialisation of District Veterinary Hospitals.*—The District Veterinary Hospital, Laheriasarai, was taken over by the Government from District Board for better management of the hospital during the Second Five-Year Plan. The hospital is under the charge of a Veterinary doctor with his headquarters at Laheriasarai.

(*b*) *Provincialisation of Subdivisional Veterinary Hospitals.*—Two Subdivisional Veterinary hospitals, located at Samastipur and Madhubani were provincialised by Government during the Second Five-Year Plan. These hospitals are under the charge of Veterinary doctors with headquarters at Samastipur and Madhubani respectively. They are under the control of Subdivisional Animal Husbandry Officer.

(*c*) *Provincialisation of District Board Veterinary Dispensaries.*—Nine Veterinary dispensaries managed by District Board were provincialised by the Government in the Second Five-Year Plan. These nine dispensaries are located at Kamtaul, Bahera, Biraul, Madhepur, Phulparas, Benipatti, Jaynagar, Dalsingsarai and Rusera. A Veterinary doctor with staff has been posted at each of them.

7. *Expansion of Veterinary Services Scheme.*—During the Second Five-Year Plan 29 Class I dispensaries were started. In each Class I Veterinary dispensary, one Touring Veterinary Surgeon was posted. Details will be found in the chapter on 'Agriculture and Irrigation'.

Employment Exchange.

Prior to 1953 there was only one Employment Information Bureau at Laheriasarai. This Bureau was under the State Government and functioned under the Sub Regional Employment Exchange, Muzaffarpur. Later the State Government sanctioned a District Employment Exchange for Laheriasarai and the Bureau became a full fledged Employment Exchange in 1953 with its jurisdiction covering the revenue district of Darbhanga.

The Directorate of Employment Exchange was under the Central Government till October 1956 and there used to be a Regional Director at Patna at the State level who was also the Additional Secretary, Labour Department, Government of Bihar. From 1st November, 1956 the entire organisation came under the administrative control of the State Government and it has now merged with the Department of Labour which has been renamed as Department of Labour and Employment, Government of Bihar. The State Director of the National Employment Service is the administrative head with his headquarters at Patna.

The District Employment Officer with his headquarters at Laheriasarai is under the Sub-Regional Employment Exchange Officer, Muzaffarpur. In the Madhwapur Block an Employment Information Bureau has been started. A Supervisor has been posted to look after the day-to-day work of the Bureau.

The chief function of the District Employment Officer is to find employment for the unemployed. It is his duty to be in touch with different sources of employment and to make the Exchange popular. The unemployed irrespective of their age, educational qualifications, etc., are expected to register themselves indicating their preference for particular trade. The entries are categorised and whenever there is a demand from any employer the Exchange Officer sends up the names of the possible candidates. The lacuna is in the fact that the employers seldom notify their requirements to the Exchange and there are far too many unqualified registered candidates looking for jobs of one type. There is a dearth for technical men who seldom register themselves as they get a ready employment. During 1958, 1959, 1960 and 1961 the clerical job category was preferred by 80 per cent candidates but vacancies for this type of job were limited.

A statement is given below to show the number of applicants registered, placed and number of vacancies notified at the end of each year for four years: –

Year.	Number of registration.	Number of applicants placed.	Number of vacancies notified.
1	2	3	4
1958	5,180	200	588
1959	3,598	167	390
1960	6,020	120	606
1961	5,158	292	1,069

The above figures are not encouraging and show that Employment Exchange is not being properly utilised.

The Employment Exchange [Compulsory notification of Vacancies Act (1959)] requires all establishments in the public sector and those employing 25 or more in the private sector to notify to Employment Exchange vacancies covered by the Act in a prescribed form and also to render to the exchange a quarterly return. It is doubtful if this statutory obligation is always implemented.

State Excise Department

There is an Excise Superintendent for this district at the head of the administration at the district level. He is under the immediate control of the Collector, Darbhanga The Superintendent of Excise is also under the administrative control of the Deputy Commissioner of Excise, Northern Range with his headquarters at Muzaffarpur.

The District is divided into three ranges, namely, Darbhanga Sadar, Samastipur and Madhubani under the charge of one Inspector with headquarters at Laheriasarai and Madhubani. These three ranges have been further divided into nine circles, namely, Darbhanga Sadar, Darbhanga North, Darbhanga South, Madhubani, Samastipur, Bahera, Warisnagar, Jaynagar and Dalsingsarai. Each circle is under the charge of one Sub-Inspector.

There are five warehouses in the district which are located at Laheriasarai, Samastipur, Madhubani, Phulparas and Rusera. Laheriasarai Warehouse is under the charge of one Sub-Inspector. Madhubani and Phulparas Warehouses are under the charge of one Sub-Inspector, and Samastipur, Rusera Warehouses are in the charge of one Sub-Inspector.

There are three *Ganja golas* in the district which are located at Laheriasarai, Madhubani and Samastipur and there is only one *Bhang gola* at Laheriasarai.

There are seven special centres at Jaynagar, Jhanjharpur, Padma, Laukahi, Sahar, Mahadeomath and Ladania under the charge of Excise Sub-Inspector, Jayanagar. The special centres at Darbhanga railway special and Rohika are under one Sub-Inspector posted at Rohika. The Samastipur railway special centre is under the charge of Sub-Inspector, Samastipur. These Sub-Inspectors are posted to check the smuggling of *Ganja* from non-duty paid Nepali *Ganja*. During 1961 (April to February 1962), about 50 maunds of Nepali *Ganja* was seized. There are reason to believe that there is an active incidence of smuggling of non-duty paid Nepali *Ganja*.

The consumption of foreign liquor is confined only to the richer class of the people and does not hamper the sale of the country spirit. The greater portion of the Excise revenue is derived from taxes levied on country spirit, *Ganja* and toddy.

The following statement will show the consumption of country spirit, *Ganja*, *Bhang* and Opium since 1912-13 to 1960-61 :—

Year	Country spirit L. P. Gallons	*Ganja*	*Bhang*	Opium
1	2	3	4	5
		Mds. Srs.	Mds. Srs.	Mds. Srs.
1912-13	34,370	133 22	Not available	32 24
1913-14	35,401	120 24	Ditto	27 18
1914-15	34,366	124 15	Ditto	25 26

Year.			Country spirit in L.P. Gallons.	Ganja.	Bhang.	Opium.
1			2	3	4	5
				Mds. seers.	Mds. seers.	Mds. seers.
1915-16 ..	..	..	30,418	101 18	Not available	20 21
1916-17 ..	..	..	34,235	115 22	Ditto	21 39
1917-18 ..	..	..	33,434	98 5	1 1	21 37
1918-19 ..	..	..	38,338	104 37	0 28	3 0
1919-20 ..	..	..	41,849	106 5	1 2	16 15
1920-21 ..	..	..	41,266	102 35	0 22	17 14
1921-22 ..	..	..	30,984	27 36	0 22	16 7
1922-23 ..	..	..	31,435	90 18	0 14	15 18
1923-24 ..	..	..	23,710	57 17	0 11	11 35
1924-25 ..	..	..	22,779	65 20	1 12	12 0
1925-26 ..	..	..	21,873	72 15	1 7	12 8
1926-27 ..	..	..	20,342	74 9	1 12	12 3
1927-28 ..	..	..	21,250	85 11	1 10	12 7
1928-29 ..	..	..	20,551	77 22	1 10	12 19
1929-30 ..	..	..	19,795	78 20	1 1	13 11
1930-31 ..	..	..	14,103	47 19	0 10	10 38
1931-32 ..	..	..	13,411.8	38 10	0 30	9 24
1932-33 ..	..	..	14,866.5	33 26	0 25	8 20
1933-34 ..	..	..	17,467	40 5	0 14	8 28
1934-35 ..	..	..	21,057.3	43 20	0 29	8 36
1935-36 ..	..	..	19,280.9	40 5	0 25	8 31
1936-37 ..	..	..	19,074.0	33 33	0 30	8 0
1937-38 ..	..	..	18,835.3	34 0	0 35	9 7
1938-39 ..	..	..	17,794.1	31 28	0 32	7 34
1939-40 ..	..	..	16,115.2	18 28	0 25	4 35
1940-41 ..	..	..	16,827.3	20 27	0 15½	4 7
1941-42 ..	..	..	16,827.3	26 30½	0 16½	5 7½
1942-43 ..	..	..	20,038.5	26 34½	0 24½	5 4

Year.	Country spirit L.P. Gallons.	*Ganja.*	*Bhang.*	Opium.
1	2	3	4	5
		Mds. Srs.	Mds. Srs.	Mds. Srs.
1943-44	26,188	22 26	0 33	5 14
1944-45	35,134.9	39 8	0 34½	6 6½
1945-46	48,079.8	34 5	1 14	6 23
1946-47	51,425.4	35 28	1 5	7 12
1947-48	13,619.4	32 30	1 11	4 19
1948-49	25,879.2	33 6½	1 20	4 2½
1949-50	20,230	24 1	1 20	3 36½
1950-51	30,122	21 25½	1 32	3 17½
1951-52	28,104.2	23 12	2 5	2 26½
1952-53	22,011.6	16 15½	2 32	2 3
1953-54	22,320.6	14 5½	2 9	2 ½
1954-55	25,086.5	55 33½	2 6½	2 33
1955-56	24,157	51 16	2 3	1 36½
1956-57	20,475.7	58 17	2 2	1 33
1957-58	20,803.9	56 3	2 1	1 21
1958-59	26,350.3	29 5	1 38	0 31
1959-60	29,733.3	37 11	1 17	0 7
1960-61	32,398.6	37 6	1 39	0 9½

The statistics of revenue derived from different kinds of exciseable commodities from 1950-51 to 1960-61 are as follows:—

Year.	Spirit	Ganja.	Opium.	*Bhang.*	*Tari.*	Foreign liquor.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1950-51 ..	5,49,366	1,31,533	62,527	939	16,04,590	17,083	9,550	24,26,088
1951-52 ..	50,72,321	1,72,361	48,281	1,110	14,80,794	16,095	7,696	22,33,600
1952-53 ..	4,55,657	1,21,818	51,880	1,487	14,21,632	23,333	18,106	20,93,913
1953-54 ..	4,54,143	1,04,386	49,521	1,210	15,03,428	25,063	17,287	21,55,037
1954-55 ..	5,30,565	1,39,371	52,830	1,411	14,50,502	22,461	20,944	22,18,084
1955-56 ..	4,99,096	1,30,508	47,896	1,172	14,10,250	22,644	13,652	21,25,218
1956-57 ..	5,41,084	1,46,355	46,132	1,213	13,65,054	24,333	12,560	21,36,731
1957-58 ..	6,48,047	1,40,121	37,714	989	14,00,957	25,355	17,771	21,71,854
1958-59 ..	5,49,978	98,029	19,580	1,011	13,34,485	24,666	17,670	20,45,419
1959-60 ..	5,98,010	90,760	4,623	677	14,42,610	26,736	9,814	21,73,230
1960-61 ..	7,50,941	93,674	5,739	960	14,54,272	27,866	9,101	23,42,553

The figures for the last ten years, i.e., from 1950-51 to 1960-61 show that the highest revenue Rs. 24,26,088 was obtained during 1950-51 and the lowest Rs. 20,45,419 in 1958-59. The decrease was mainly due to general economic depression prevailing in the district.

The consumption of country spirit was the highest in 1946-47 and the lowest in 1947-48. The consumption of *Ganja* was the highest in 1912-13 and lowest in 1953-54 which was mainly due to the economic condition of the people. Revenue derived from *Tari* licence fee was the highest in 1950-51 and lowest in 1956-57. During 1960-61 the receipt has increased in all heads except *Ganja* and *Bhang*.

The consumption of opium has been sought to be restricted by the prohibition of free sale of opium. Opium is sold for medicinal purposes or otherwise only to those persons who hold a medical certificate from a proper authority that consumption of opium is a necessity for medicinal purposes.

There are also certain restrictions against consumption of country liquor in the shops. But these measures have had very little effect and the incidence of consumption of intoxicants has been definitely going up. In summer months the *Tari* shops cater to the poorer section. *Tari* as a beverage is very largely consumed throughout the district.

There is no prohibition in Darbhanga district. The State has not yet adopted prohibition as a policy. An attempt is made to bring in prohibition by the raising of the price of intoxicants through the increase of excise duty and imposing restrictions against consumption of intoxicants in public places. For example unless there is a licence for a bar no one can buy a drink and have it at the shop.

Electricity Department.

The Electricity Executive Engineer with his headquarters at Muzaffarpur is incharge of the Darbhanga Electricity Department. He is under the control of the Electrical Superintending Engineer, North Bihar with his headquarters at Muzaffarpur. The Chief Engineer, Electricity Department, Bihar, with his headquarters at Patna is the head of the Department.

The Executive Engineer is assisted by three Assistant Electrical Engineers with their headquarters at Madhubani, Samastipur and Pusa. They are incharge of the transmission and distribution in their respective jurisdiction. Below the Assistant Electrical Engineers are the Overseers whose strength is eight and posted at Darbhanga, Samastipur, Dalsingsarai, Rusera, Madhubani, Sakri, Pusa and Pusa Road. There are two Government power houses at

Samastipur and Sakri and their capacity is 1218 k.w. and 875 k.w. respectively. Besides there is a private company's power house at Darbhanga.

There are about 120 towns and villages which have been electrified till the end of 1962 (March). The important towns and villages electrified are Darbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur, Jaynagar, Jhanjharpur, Sakri, Bahera, Tajpur, Rusera, Lohat, Pandaul, Raghopur, Pusa Farm, Waini, Pusa Bazar, Mahmeda, Hasanpur, Mahespatti, Belahi, Kapileshwarasthan, Biraul, Dudhpura, Keshopatti, Makraupur, Akbarpur, Bazidpur, Rohika, Jitwarpur, Bhagwanpur, Ram Nathpur, Keoti, Bhitti, Rampatti, Jitwarpur Chowk, Saurath, Mangrauni, Sarairanjan and Simra, etc.

So far as electrification in this district is concerned about 152 miles high tension lines in Madhubani subdivision and about 125 miles high tension lines in Samastipur subdivision have been constructed. The total capacity of pole mounted sub-station installed at Samastipur subdivision is 3172.5 kilovoltsamps and at Madhubani subdivision is 2377.5 kilovoltsamps. There will be a rapid extension of electric lines as the people are keen to have electric connections in their houses only if they can afford. This is a very expanding department. It is, however, correct to say that the spread of electricity has some effect on the development of small industries driven by power in the villages.

Life Insurance Corporation.

After nationalisation of Life Insurance work the Life Insurance Corporation was set up. The Corporation has only one Branch Office at the Darbhanga district with a Development Centre at Madhubani and there is a Sub-office at Samastipur under Muzaffarpur Division. The Samastipur Sub-Office was started in 1958 and the Madhubani Development Centre in 1960. The Samastipur Sub-Office has been functioning as a Branch Office directly under the Muzaffarpur Division. There is an Assistant Branch Manager (Development) at Darbhanga who is the incharge of the office. The Madhubani Development Centre is under Darbhanga Branch, but there is an Assistant Branch Manager (Development) who looks after the said centre. There are 20 Field Officers in the Darbhanga Branch out of which 11 are directly under the Branch and 9 are under the Madhubani Development Centre. Out of 11 Field Officers put under the Branch direct, 7 are posted at Darbhanga, 1 at Kamtaul, 2 at Bahera and one at Biraul. Out of 9 Field Officers placed under the Development Centre, 2 are posted at Madhubani, 1 at Jhanjharpur, 1 at Benipatti, 1 at Jaynagar, 1 at Nirmali (Saharsa district), 1 at Pandaul, 1 at Phulparas and 1 at Khutauna. There are nine Field Officers in the Samastipur Sub-Office of whom four are posted at Samastipur, 1 at Rusera, 1 at Dalsingsarai, 1 at Mohiuddinagar, 1 at Singia and 1 at Ujiarpur. The Field Officers who have a specified

area in their charge, work through appointed agents who are distributed over the villages in their area. These village agents work on commission basis calculated on the premiums paid on policies. The details of the working have been dealt in 'Banking, Trade and Commerce' chapter.

Postal Department.

The Postal Department including Telegraphs and Telephones is under the Central Government. For the administration of Postal services there is one Superintendent of Post-Offices with his headquarters at Darbhanga. He is under the direct control of the Post Master General, Bihar with his headquarters at Patna.

The jurisdiction of the Superintendent roughly extends over the whole of the district of Darbhanga. For administrative purposes and for running the service efficiently the entire Darbhanga Postal Division is subdivided into six subdivisions, namely, Darbhanga East, Darbhanga West, Darbhanga Central, Madhubani, Samastipur North and Samastipur South. Each subdivision is under an Inspector of the rank of Junior Selection Grade of the Postal Service. The headquarters of the Inspectors of Darbhanga East, Darbhanga West and Darbhanga Central are at Darbhanga. The headquarters of the Inspector of Madhubani is at Madhubani and of Samastipur North and Samastipur South are at Samastipur.

The Laheriasarai and Samastipur Post-Offices are the Head Post Offices. There are 53 Sub-Post Offices in Darbhanga district and 661 Branch Post Offices. The majority of the Sub-Post Offices are served direct by rail communication with railway mail service and a few are served by roads through mail runners.

The six hundred and sixty-one Branch Post Offices are located at bigger villages and serve the neighbouring villages. Some of them are located at villages where there are Police Stations and Block Development Offices. The details of the works of the department have been dealt in 'Communications' chapter.

Anti-Malaria Department.

The Anti-Malaria Department of Darbhanga district is divided into two circles, namely, Darbhanga Sadar Circle and Madhubani Circle. Each circle is under the charge of an Anti-Malaria Officer with his headquarters at Darbhanga Sadar and Mabhubani. They are the administrative heads of their respective circles. They are under the administrative control of the Chief Malaria Officer, Patna with his headquarters at Patna.

The Anti-Malaria Officer, Darbhanga is assisted by four Assistant Anti-Malaria Officers and a Unit Officer, each of them are incharge of the four Sub-Units, namely, Darbhanga Proper, Mohammadpur, Samastipur and Warisnagar, under the jurisdiction and supervision

of Anti-Malaria Officer, Darbhanga. There are 25 Malaria Inspectors and 99 Superior Field Workers under the guidance of the Anti-Malaria Officer.

The Anti-Malaria Officer, Madhubani is assisted by four Assistant Anti-Malaria Officers, each at Benipatti, Madhubani, Khajauli and Jaynagar. Besides there is a Unit Officer and 13 Malaria Inspectors and 50 Malaria Superior Field Workers under the guidance of Anti-Malaria Officer, Madhubani.

D. D. T. is largely used by the Malaria Department. It has brought about a desired effect to a very great extent. More details will be found in the text on 'Medical and Public Health Services'.

Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board.

There is a Secretary for the District Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board with his headquarters at Laheriasarai. He is under the control of the District Magistrate, who is the Honorary President of the Board. State Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board, Patna is the head office of the District Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board. The Governor of the State is the President of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board. The State Board is affiliated to Indian Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board with headquarters at New Delhi.

The main aim of this Board is to look after the welfare of the ex-servicemen and the family of the serving soldiers. The Board recruited about 7,000 persons from this district up to July, 1961 in which about 1,000 are in active service and the rest have come back to their homes as disbanded soldiers, reservists or on pensions. The Board tries to help the ex-service personnel in securing service and in their litigations. The Board also helps the relatives of the service men in their troubles. It also helps them (ex-servicemen) in matters of their technical and vocational training and securing aid from Co-operative Societies, Relief and Scholarship for education of their children. The Board at present (April 1962) offers stipend of Rs. 8 per month to about 30 school students and stipends of Rs. 30 per month to six college students.

There are about 400 pensioners out of which 100 are family pension cases and 100 are the cases of disabled persons from Army service. The rest 200 are service pension holders.

The Board has two Welfare Workers who spend 15 days of their time in a month to contact the families of ex-servicemen and servicemen or their families to find out their problems and difficulties and try to solve them.

Income-tax Department.

Income-tax is a Central subject. The jurisdiction of the Income tax Officer, Darbhanga extends over the whole of Darbhanga

district. There are two Income-tax Officers at Darbhanga. One is known as the Income-tax Officer, Ward 'A' and the other is known as Income-tax Officer, Ward 'B'. The former assesses only such cases that might have been assessed for Rs. 10,000 or above and the latter assesses the case falling under the income groups below Rs. 26,000. There is an Income-tax Inspector in this district with his headquarters at Darbhanga to assist the officers in their enquiry work.

The Controlling Officer of the Income-tax Officers at Darbhanga is the Inspecting Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax, Northern Range, with his headquarters at Patna. He in his turn is under the Commissioner of Income-tax, with his headquarters at Patna whose jurisdiction extends over the whole of Bihar and Orissa Provinces.

For wealth-tax purposes, in which Income-tax is also included, the Income-tax Officer, Darbhanga Circle with his headquarters at Darbhanga is himself the authority and he is controlled by the Commissioner of Income-tax, Patna.

For Estate Duty cases including the Income-tax, the Assistant Controller of Estate Duty-*cum*-Income-tax with his headquarters at Patna, is the controlling authority. He is under the administrative control of the Deputy Collector of Estate Duty, Calcutta Range, with his headquarters at Patna.

Regarding the appeals from the orders of the Income-tax Officers they lie with the Appellate Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax with his headquarters at Muzaffarpur. He comes to the district headquarters to hear the appeals.

The figures of assessment and collection of Income-tax along with the number of assessees are given below for eleven years :-

Year.	Number of assessees.	Gross demand in rupees.	Net collection in rupees.
1948-49	1,034	12,85,000	Not available.
1949-50	1,307	10,75,000	Not available.
1950-51	1,300	11,57,000	Not available.
1952-53	Not available	Not available	Not available.
1953-54	1,021	3,21,000	2,49,000
1954-55	1,207	4,48,000	3,21,000
1955-56	1,125	6,47,000	53,000
1956-57	1,125	9,34,000	4,26,000
1957-58	1,245	9,17,000	4.86,000
1958-59	1,503	9,74,000	5,18,000
1959-60	1,552	5,15,000	5,39,000
1960-61	1,763	8,96,000	5,39,000

There has been a tremendous increase in the number of assessees and net collection during 1960-61 as compared with the year 1953-54. During 1953-54 the net collection was Rs. 2,49,000 which increased up to Rs. 5,39,000 in the year 1960-61. This increase was due to increase in number of assessees and more disposal of cases and changes in Income-tax laws. Since 1953-54 to 1960-61 there has been increase in net collection except there was a decrease in 1959-60 which was due to unfavourable market of grain and due to issue of refund to assessees.

Darbhanga district is soon going to have some paper mills. With the pace of industrialisation and better exploitation of internal resources, the Income-tax receipts are bound to go up.

Central Excise Department.

The Central Excise Department, Darbhanga is divided into two circles, namely, Laheriasarai Circle and Samastipur Cirlcle. Each circle is under the administrative charge of a Superintendent of Central Excise with their headquarters at Laheriasarai and Samastipur. The Laheriasarai Circle is under the direct control of the Assistant Collector, Central Excise, Muzaffarpur Division with headquarters at Muzaffarpur and Samastipur Circle is under the control of Assistant Collector, Bhagalpur with headquarters at Bhagalpur.

The Superintendent of Laheriasarai is assisted by two Deputy Superintendents, 27 Inspectors and 7 Sub-Inspectors.

There are two Border Check-posts at Jaynagar and Nirmali to facilitate the export of goods to Nepal which are either of Indian origin or of foreign origin. Although Nirmali is a part of Saharsa district but for the Central Excise administrative convenience it has been tagged with Laheriasarai Circle.

There are seven tobacco ranges of Samastipur Circle under four Deputy Superintendents, two Senior Grade Inspectors and one ordinary Inspector. The ranges are located at Samastipur, Allauthchouk, Dalsingsarai, Patori, Mohiuddinagar, Baghra and Rusera. Besides there are two sugar factories at Samastipur and Hasanpur under the charge of ordinary Inspectors.

The main function of the Superintendent is to look after the proper collection of the excise duty levied by the Central Government from time to time.

The exciseable commodities in both the circles are tobacco, sugar and vegetable non-essential oil. The details of the production, etc., will be found in 'Industries' chapter.

The following table will show the collection of revenue from Central Excise in Darbhanga district:

	Laheriasarai Circle.			Samastipur Circle.		
	1958-59.	1959-60.	1960-61.	1958-59.	1959-60.	1960-61.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
TOBACCO.						
1. No. of growing villages ..	904	959	872	645	670	633
2. No. of growers ..	17,330	24,245	17,197	15,419	21,147	14,798
3. Production (in Kilogram)	5,226,636	7,498,206	1,960,212	3,306,647	4,691,866	3,378,911
4. Yield per acre (in Kilogram).	1,675	1.542	1,940	1.833	1,728	1,754
5. Revenue realised (in rupees).	92,21,695.53	1,445,931.00	1,210.919.80	10,75,575.77	11,81,008.06	1,502,057.63
SUGAR.						
1. Quantity of sugar produced (in quintals).	71,559.918	561,109.790	270,264.457	1,94,617.49	2,058,004.64	261,786.26
2. Revenue realised (in rupees).	776,024	8,346,898.51	5,732,263	6,466,386.49	5,662,486.95	5,443,342.91
3. Total sugar exported (in quintals).	Nil	Nil	13,037.49	3,528.81	35,924.49	Nil.
VEGETABLE NON-ESSENTIAL OIL.						
1. Total quantity of oil produced (in quintals).	225 896	1,985.05	921.668	Under exemption.	56.63	51.48
2. Total revenue realised (in rupees).	15,513.95	188,644.34	81,397.91	Under exemption.	3,828.25	5,731.52

During 1959-60 there were 24,245 tobacco growers under Laheriasarai Circle which decreased in 1960-61. The increase was due to registration of more growers who cultivated the tobacco and the decrease was due to non-production of the tobacco by the growers.

There was increase in sugar production in both the circles which was due to crushing of more sugarcane and there was a bumper crop of sugar in this district. The increase in revenue was due to more supply of sugar in the markets. There was a great fall in production during 1960-61 which was due to non-supply of sugarcane by the growers.

During 1960-61 there was decrease in production and revenue of vegetable non-essential oil, due to close of the 'Thakur Prasad Ganga Prasad Oil Factory' of Darbhanga, which was paying heavy revenue.

CHAPTER X

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.

(1) History of Land Revenue Administration.
(a) Land Revenue Assessment and Management.

Hindu Period.

The history of the revenue administration of the Darbhanga district before the Mohammadan period has faded into oblivion except that the general pattern of administration of the Hindu Kings, based on the principles laid down in Manusmriti and Kautilya's Arthshashtra, were followed. The kings used to realise one-sixth of the produce from the cultivators through the village headman. The rent was realised primarily in kind and with the growth of time several abwabs were also levied.

Mohammadan period.

During Mohammadan* rule the district of Darbhanga formed a part of Sarkars of Hajipur and Tirhut. Within the present boundaries of the district 58 parganas were distributed over the various subdivisions and the Revenue Thanas as per Appendix "A". It is noticeable that 30 parganas extend over more than one Revenue Thana. The parganas also differ widely in their size, 10 of them being less than 5 square miles in area and the biggest being pargana Saraisa which besides occupying an area of 475 square miles in the district also extends over a considerable area in the Muzaffarpur district.

The assessment of revenue of which details are available was carried out by Todar Mal, great Finance Minister of Akbar, in year 1582. He carried an extensive survey of the cultivable area in the Sarkars by adopting a standard pole and assessed revenue in keeping with the productivity of the soil. The revenue was fixed mainly in cash but the interests of the tax payers were safeguarded by provisions that anyone who objected to the assessment of the rent of their land should be entitled to have their produce specially appraised and that anyone who objected to the commuted rent fixed should be allowed to pay his revenue in kind. The measurements during the assessment appear to have been made by Amin under the supervision of a Kanungo for each pargana and an Amalguzar (or Collector) for each Sarkar or district. As a result of this assessment an area of 817,370 acres in Sarkars of Hajipur and Tirhut was settled at the revenue of Rs. 11,63,020. The incidence of revenue per acre comes to about Re. 1-7-0 which adheres to the general rate of apportionment at Rs. 1-8-0 in the neighbouring Sarkars. It is difficult now to compute the figures of cultivable areas and assess revenue in respect of

*Mohammadan is also spelt as Muhammadan.

Darbhanga district owing to the changes of jurisdictions that have taken place since the time. The 42 parganas of the district for which figures have been available, returned a productive area of 1,66,072 *Daltani* Bighas equivalent to 2,04,536 acres. The revenue assessed on them was Rs. 2,31,006 giving an incidence of Re. 1-2-0 per productive acre as compared with Rs. 1-8-0 in Saran and Re. 1-6-3 in Champaran. The probable inferences are, that Darbhanga was in a more backward agricultural condition than the rest of the areas of Sarkar Tirhut and that the remote belts of the district were not fully subdued and were in the hands of perfectly independent Zamindars. Subsequent to the assessment by Todar Mal, two other assessments were made during the Mohammadan rule. One was made in 1685 which is mentioned in the previous gazetteer to have been made in the time of Emperor Shah Jahan while in the Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations from 1896 to 1903 of the district it is stated to have been made in the time of Aurangzeb. The other assessment was made during the Viceroyalty of Ali Vardi Khan in year 1750. The fluctuations in the revenue of Sarkars Hajipur and Tirhut as a whole and for Sarkar, Tirhut separately are given in the following table :—

Year of assessment.	Revenue assessed for Sarkars Hajipur and Tirhut.	Revenue assessed for Sarkar Tirhut.
	Rs.	Rs.
1582	11,63,020	4,79,495
1685	17,98,576	7,69,287
1750	16,48,142	8,20,042

The striking increase in the revenue between 1582 and 1685 was, no doubt, in large measure due to the extension of the cultivation which had occurred during a century of comparatively peaceful administration. It is also probable that the assessment of 1685 was very heavy. This later possibility is supported by the fact that Ali Vardi Khan could effect only a small increase 65 years later. Readjustment of Ali Vardi Khan's assessment was made in year 1765 by Md. Raza Khan, Subedar of Bihar. This revision shows that against a gross revenue of Rs. 8,20,042 assessed by Ali Vardi Khan for Sarkar Tirhut only Rs. 2,45,212 actually reached the Government, the rest being appropriated by *Jagirdars*, collection charges, etc. In making the revision Md. Raja Khan retained 3 whole parganas in Tirhut with revenue of Rs. 1,42,070 as his own Jagir and allowed many similar unconstitutional alienations to his dependents and surbordinates.

Early British period.

With the grant of Diwani of the Province of Bengal to the East India Company in 1765, the revenue administration passed to the British hands. To start with, the company entrusted the collection of revenue to the Indian agencies. as the employees of the company did not possess sufficient knowledge of the indigenous revenue system, nor they had any previous experience of the management of such administration. In 1769, the Company, however, found it necessary to appoint European Supervisors to watch over the Indian subordinates in the collection of the revenue and administration of civil justice. They were also entrusted with the task of collecting information about the internal resources of the country and the history of the tracts under their charge with regard to their condition, revenue, abwabs, fertility of the soil, etc. In the year 1770, a Revenue Council was established at Patna for the purposes of managing the revenue administration of Bihar through European Supervisors and the native officials and to control their work. In the year 1772, under orders of the Court of Directors, the whole internal administration was entrusted to the European servants of the Company under the control of Board of Revenue stationed at Calcutta. The enquiries by the Supervisors as stated before showed "the whole system resolved itself on the part of the public officers into habitual extortion and injustice which produced on the cultivators natural consequences, concealment and evasion, by which the Government were defrauded of a considerable portion of its just demand". In the year 1771, therefore, the Court of Directors sent out their orders "to standforth as Diwan and by the agencies of the Company's servant to take upon themselves the entire care and management of the Revenue". Under these orders the whole internal administration was entrusted to the European servants of the Company under the control of the Board of Revenue at Calcutta. This adoption of direct management through European officials, however, proved a financial failure and the European Agency was replaced by native Amils under the control of a Provincial Council at Patna. In the year 1772, quinquennial settlements were effected, but this also having failed to work satisfactorily, annual settlements were made for years 1778, 1779 and 1780 to the farmers and zamindars. These annual settlements were also not found to be successful and in the year 1781, an important administrative change was made. The districts were placed under the charge of the European Collectors for the first time subject to the control of a Committee of revenue in Calcutta. Mr. Francis Grant was appointed the first Collector of Tirhut in the year 1782.

The District Gazetteer of Darbhanga by L. S. S. O' Malley, I.C.S. published in 1907 records a detailed description of the conduct and living of the first Collector, who indulged in speculation and business by sponsoring indigo plantation. The Collector

was removed from his office by Lord Cornwallis on the 27th of August, 1787. Mr. Robert Bathurst who succeeded him carried out the Decennial Settlement. During the period 1781 till 1790 when the Decennial Settlement made by Mr. Bathurst was confirmed, the Collectors made annual settlement with the Zamindars and where they were found to be recusant, with farmers. The task of annual settlement and realisation of revenue was difficult for the Collector, who was ignorant of the incidence of productivity of the soil and had to deal with quite a large number of petty proprietors. The proprietors quarrelled and higgled over every detail and the subordinates also proved an impediment in fair settlement. Raja Madho Singh of Darbhanga who was the biggest proprietor in the district contumaciously refused all terms and put every obstacle in settlement of his Estates being made to the farmers, by intimidating them. Apart from the difficulties in assessment, the difficulties in collection were also aggravated by the lawless state of the country which was infested by bands of robbers, who were generally in collusion with the native *Amils* and did not hesitate to molest even the European servants of the Company. The seasons were also unfavourable and there was hardly a year without some natural calamity. This uncertain seasonal characteristic of the district has continued ever since and Darbhanga has been far too frequently even now in the grip of drought and flood necessitating relief operations on a major scale. The collectors also experienced difficulties in making realisation as the settlement holders were unwilling to make payment without extreme coercion.

After assumption of his office of Governor-General in 1786, Lord Cornwallis adopted measures to effect a more permanent settlement. Interrogatories were issued to the Collectors of the districts and other experienced officers who were required to report on the following main points:—

(1) The amount of assessment.

(2) The persons with whom settlements to be made.

(3) The measures necessary for the protection of the tenants from oppression and for the prompt realisation from them of the just demands of the landlords.

Mr. Bathurst, the Collector of Tirhut in 1788 proceeded to make an assessment which was confirmed by the Board of Revenue for 10 years in 1790. This assessment was based on the *Paidawar* of the lands of each Estate including the cash and produce rental, the incomes from fishery, orchards, house rents, pasture lands, forests and such other miscellaneous sources. From this gross income was deducted the *Kharchadehi* which included the collection charges, the sums debited on the upkeep of temple, etc. and the allowance of 10 per cent on the collection for the profit of proprietor

or the value of the *Malikana* lands left to those who were deprived of their direct managements of their estates. The difference between the *Paidawar* and *Khurchadehi* was proposed to be the revenue payable as the Muffasil *Jama*. According to this assessment the revenue roll for the district of Tirhut in the year 1790 stood at Rs. 9,83,642 against the assessed area of 15,84,826 acres giving an incidence of annas 9 per acre. The increase effected by the Decennial Settlement over the revenue roll of 1787 was thus above 15 per cent. Confining our attention to the areas covered by the present district of Darbhanga the assessment was made in respect of 5,70,725 acres with a revenue of Rs. 5,47,512 giving an incidence of Re. 0-15-3 per acre. The high incidence is attributed mainly to the fact that the farmers with whom estates of Raja Madho Singh were settled. due to his default, offered higher terms than obtaining generally for the district. The assessment, although sound in principle suffered badly in accuracy as the agencies at the disposal of the Collector were entirely inadequate. Quite a large area of the district appears to have escaped assessment as only a little more than one-fourth of the total area of the district was covered in the Decennial Settlement Operation. The number of the estates formed in the district of Darbhanga was only 532 as against 17,052 in year 1951 when the vesting of the intermediary estates commenced under the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950.

Permanent Settlement in 1793.

In 1793, the Governor-General in Council with the sanction of the Court of the Directors declared the Decennial Settlement to be permanent. This, however, did not affect the large tract comprising the Estate of Raja Madho Singh who refused to take settlement on the terms offered by Government until the decision of his objections as to *Malikana* land or allowance for land for which he alleged himself to have been wrongfully dispossessed and it was not until 1800 that the materials for settlement were arrived at. The matter was finally reconciled in the year 1807, when Raja Madho Singh agreed to an assessment of Rs. 1,52,053. He was also allowed an annual large sum known as *Dasturat* to be paid to him because of the chunk of lands he had lost.

The effect of the permanent settlement on the revenue roll of Darbhanga district is difficult to trace because quite a large portion of the district forming greater portion of the Darbhanga Estate was not covered by the same in the year 1793 and was for the next 15 years settled on temporary leases to farmers of Raja Madho Singh's Estate on his default.

The Resumption Proceedings.

Although permanent settlement was effected in the year 1793 it did not cover quite a large area of the district, as the

invalid revenue grants were not resumed or assessed to revenue. During Mohammadan rule, the remoteness of the district from the centre of the Moghal power rendered it easy for the subordinate official of the empire to carve out for themselves *Jagirs* and *nankars*. During the Hindu period, also the granting of lands for charitable and religious purposes was also very common. A large number of Estates had thus come into existence which were not paying any public revenue. The extent to which this sapped the Government revenue will be evident only from the fact that against the final Mohammadan assessment for Sarkar Tirhut at Rs. 8,20,042 only a sum of Rs. 2,45,212 actually reached the Government in the year 1762. These *Lakhraj* lands could be classified under the following classes:—

(1) Those granted by the Emperor ;

(2) Those granted by his deputies ;

(3) Those granted by subordinate officers;

(4) Those granted by zamindars.

After elaborate enquiries a register was compiled in 1791 for the four classes of the aforesaid lands. While declaring the Decennial Settlement to be permanent in 1793, the Governor General in Council reserved the right "to impose such assessment as he may deem equitable on all lands at present alienated and paying no public revenue, which have been, or may prove to be held under illegal or invalid titles". It was decided to recognise the first two classes of *Lakhraj* lands as valid grants if the claimant would produce a *Sanad* and was in possession. The other two classes of *Lakhraj* lands were to be recognised as valid only, if held from a date prior to 1765. In 1793, Kanungos were deputed to make further enquiries regarding the *Lakhraj* lands and the register was revised in 1802 showing in the parganas of Darbhanga 118 149 acres of revenue-free lands scattered over 1,171 villages.

Little progress, however, could be made in the resumption proceedings till the next 30 years. Regulation II of 1819 facilitated the proceedings to a certain extent by transferring them from the Civil to the Revenue Courts. But the first real advance was made by Regulation VII of 1822 which provided for the record of rights and obligations of various classes and persons possessing an interest in the lands, or in the rent produce thereof in case of all future settlements. It was not until 1833, that the difficulties were removed, when the actual measurements of the lands were made over to the professional Survey Party and the Collector and his staff were made responsible only for the framing of the record and the assessment based upon it. Special Judges were appointed to hear appeals from the decision of the Collectors. These changes produced salutory effect and from 1833 the resumption proceedings

were carried on briskly and completed near about 1850 resulting in an assessment of 5,93,845 acres and in an addition of a revenue of Rs. 3,60,596. The revenue thus added to the roll as a result of the resumption proceedings accounts for about 45 per cent of the permanently settled Revenue of the district. The average rate applied to the resumption amounted to Re. 0-9-3 per acre as compared to the average rate of just under Re. 0-6-2 for the district.

The total revenue for the district after its creation in year 1875 was Rs. 7,89,093. At the close of the Survey and Settlement Operations in the year 1903 it was Rs. 7,88,301. There have been only slight fluctuations in the revenue demand of the district since then. In the year 1952, since when the intermediary interests began to be taken over under Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950 it stood at Rs. 7,92,259.

Revenue Survey of 1845—1849.

The survey of the area covered by the resumption proceedings only emphasised the necessity for the complete survey of the district as a whole. The Collector, Tirhut as early as 1815 reported that many disputes, in many instances, attended with serious consequences, were arising from the fact that this district had never been measured at the time of decennial or any subsequent settlement. The district was, therefore, included in the Revenue Survey of Bengal. This Revenue Survey which was commenced in 1846 and completed in 1849 was chiefly done with a view to demarcating the boundaries of villages and Estates and collecting accurate though limited statistical information concerning them. The village maps were prepared on the scale of 4" to the mile in respect of each village as demarcated. It appears that difference between the terms "village" and "Estates" was not very well understood with the result that the number of *Chhit Frajis* was sufficiently large. Nevertheless, the Revenue Survey demarcations were considerably helpful in deciding the boundary disputes which were successfully cut down. The Revenue Survey maps also provided valuable reference in writing of the Collector's Land Administration register and to the Thanawise distribution of the villages by the Boundary Commission. Side by side of the preparation of maps, *khesra* registers were also collected. According to the Revenue Survey the area of the estate of Sarkar Tirhut was 6,114 square miles with a land revenue of Rs. 14,62,548 with an incidence of Re. 0-5-11¾ per acre. The area forming the present district of Darbhanga, according to the Revenue Survey worked out to 3,330 square miles as compared to an area of 3,348 square miles of the cadastral survey of the year 1896—1903. The difference in area was attributed in the final survey and settlement of 1903 as being probably due to changes in the area of the Gangetic *diaras*. The figures of revenue demand for the areas at present comprising the

district of Darbhanga are not available, but approximately it amounted to six and three quarter lakhs of rupees, or about a lakh less than that of the recent times. Subsequently the revenue increased due to the readjustments between the Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga revenues which took place after the bifurcation of the two districts from Sarkar Tirhut in 1875 as well as due to resumption proceedings which were not completed till after the conclusion of the revenue survey.

The survey of the Gangetic *diara* took place during the period of 1865—68. It was undertaken with a view to the re-adjustment of revenue rendered necessary by changes in reparian area. Its effects on the revenue roll were, however, slight. As a result of this survey 46 fresh Estates with a demand of Rs. 3,989 were created in Sarkar Tirhut while a remission of Rs. 2,708 had to be granted on account of dilluvion. As no parganawar figures are available, the exact effect of the *diara* survey on the revenue roll of the present district of Darbhanga cannot be given. But as *diara* area of Darbhanga is much smaller than that of Muzaffarpur, it was probably insignificant. The *diara* survey was conducted without first relaying revenue survey boundary accurately. This probably could not be done owing to difficulties in obtaining common fixed points and owing to the small scale of the revenue survey maps. The result is that the villages of *diara* survey often differ considerably from those of revenue survey.

Modern period Cadastral Survey, 1896—1903.

It was felt that a more accurate survey and the compilation of a comprehensive record-of-rights was necessary to protect adequately the interest of the land—holders and to stop illegal enhancement of rent and oppression of the tenants by the landlords. Notification, therefore, was issued in 1875 ordering the survey of all lands in the districts of Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Saran and Champaran. The survey in the district of Darbhanga began in 1896 and was completed in 1903. The Settlement Officers who carried out the survey operations were Mr. Stevenson Moor, I. C. S. and Mr. J. H. Kerr, I. C. S. According to this survey the area of the district was 3,348 sq. miles. Record of rights was prepared in respect of 3,387 villages and an area of 3,308 square miles including 5 miles of *diara* land containing six temporarily settled estates. About 40 square miles of Gangetic *diara* in Revenue Thana Dalsingsarai were excluded from the Survey and Settlement. No record of rights was prepared in respect thereof. The deficiency in diara survey of 1865—68 was removed by preparing maps of the *diara* villages on the scale of 16″ to a mile after connecting with permanent stations on the high banks on both sides of the river. Maps on the same scale were prepared for the non-*diara* areas as well. This survey was really valuable inasmuch as it

was for the first time that a detailed plotwise map and comprehensive record of rights were prepared. After an accurate survey which removed the want of fixity of tenure put stop to the enhancement of rent from the occupancy Raiyats. Besides the Survey and Settlement Operations various statistics were collected.

According to the cadastral survey of 1896—1903 the district comprised a total area of 3,348 miles or 21,42,848 acres in 3,438 villages. Of this area, the cultivated or assessed area was 16,92,443 acres. About 80 per cent of the area was found under cultivation. The percentage under *Bhadoi*, *Agahani*, *Rabi* and *Dofasala* cultivated area being 28 per cent, 63 per cent, 47 per cent and 38 per cent respectively. Only about 6 per cent of the total cropped area had the advantage of irrigation. Only 10.1 per cent of the total area was recorded as cultivable land. The largest tract of uncultivated area was reported to be in Madhubani Thana. The average size of the village was determined to be 623 acres and that of a holding to 2 acres and of a plot to be 0.4 acre. The percentage of cropped area under rice cultivation was the highest in this district (61.39) as compared to other districts of Tirhut division—Saran (4.3), Muzaffarpur (49.36), Champaran (54.06). The area under sugarcane was assessed to be 6,299 acres forming 0.96 per cent of the net cropped area. In cultivation of indigo this district was lowest of the four with 52,136 acres and 3.08 per cent of the net cropped area. But in tobacco cultivation the district was ahead of the others with 28,807 acres forming 1.7 per cent of the net cropped area.

The area in occupation of landlords and tenants was 2,871 square miles or 86 per cent of the total area of the district. Of this total area occupied by landlords and tenants 14 per cent was under the occupation of proprietors and tenure holders, 83 per cent was under the occupation of occupancy and settled Ryats, 2 per cent was under the occupation of Ryats at fixed rates and rent free tenants while only 1 per cent was under the occupation of non-occupancy Ryats. The area in direct occupation of the landlords was larger in Darbhanga district than of Saran or Champaran but was less than that in Muzaffarpur. There was a marked tendency on the part of the landlords to bring as much of lands under their direct occupation as possible.

The total number of Estates in the district revenue rolls was 13,400. The total revenue demand was Rs. 7,88,301 The total revenue paying area being 20,19,213 acres and the rate of revenue per acre is calculated to be Re. 0-6-2. An attempt was made to assess the total income of the landlords from the revenue paying area and the same was estimated at Rs. 70,28,455 giving a rate of Rs. 3-7-8 per acre. Obviously the assessment of revenue at the permanent settlement had fallen short of its aim allowing only 10 per cent of the assets to the landlords as profits who were enjoying nearly 88 per cent of the same.

The revisional survey of this district is expected to be taken up soon after the operations in Muzaffarpur which are practically concluded (1902).

Present system of assessment and collection of rent revenues.

The creation of a class of intermediaries between the Estate and the actual tiller of soil by the permanent settlement of 1793 during the British rule, besides disadvantages to Government, led to certain undesirable consequences on the tenantry. The Collector of Tirhut while making the assessment for decennial settlement has observed that "in making the zamindars, in act as well as in name, lords paramount of the soil, their abject and helpless vassals, the raiyats, trained up to hereditary submission, will bear in silence and secret dread whatever their imposing tyranny may inflict." This was a very correct assessment of things to happen as subsequent events proved to be. The Bengal Regulations VII of 1799 empowered the landlords to distrain the crops of their raiyats and in certain cases to arrest their persons for arrears of rent without reference to any court. The realisation of produce rent continued to be in vogue for large areas of land. Petty landlords made settlement without any *pattas* and refrained from issuing rent receipts of *Bhouli* lands. The raiyats were, in many cases, deprived of the right of enjoyment of usufructs of the trees on their lands. They also did not have the right to mould bricks, dig tanks or to construct houses on their lands without the prior approval of their landlords who in most of such cases resumed the land to themselves. In Darbhanga Raj, there are still a large number of tanks which were actually dug by the tenants at their own expense but the lands had to be surrendered to the Raj before such excavation and although the expenses were fully borne by the tenants, the tanks became the property of the Raj. The oppression of tenantry by illegal exactions was also common. Illegal enhancement of rent or *jama* was frequently indulged into. The realisation of *abwabs* was yet another burden to the tenantry. The Final Survey and Settlement report of Darbhanga details a list of such *abwabs* at page 46 of 1926 edition. The Ex-landlords also took *Hari* and *Begari*. The former consisted of the utilisation of the plough, bullocks and labour of the farmers for cultivation of the land of the landlords without any payment. The latter was a practice of taking forced and free labour from the agriculturist labourers in their Zamindari. The general financial status of the tenantry being too low as compared to that of the Zamindars, the Zamindari system brought many other evils in its wake. The landlords often forgot their social obligations and treated the raiyats with an air of superiority and the tenants became poorer. This was all in addition to the fact, as discussed earlier, that the permanent settlement had deprived the State of a major chunk of

the income from the lands inasmuch as the landlords were appropriating about 88 per cent of the income from fruits whereas the permanent settlement envisaged to allow them to only 10 per cent of it.

From time to time the State Government passed various laws and amendments to the Tenancy Act to give the raiyats some relief. Some of them were amendments to the Bihar Tenancy Act and other Rent laws, commutation of rent, restoration of Bakast lands, reduction of rent etc. But in spite of all such legislation not much improvement was noticed. Some details have been given later.

With the intent of implementing the Government revenues and ameliorating the condition of the tenantry the Government of Bihar, therefore passed the legislation of Bihar Zamindari Abolition Act, 1949. The validity of this Act was challenged by the landlords and the Court granted several injunctions. This act was replaced subsequently by the Bihar Land Reforms Act of 1950. The validity of this Act was also challenged in the Patna High Court which declared that the Act contravened the provision of Article 14 of the Constitution and was, therefore, invalid. The State Government considered the matter in consultation with the Central Government and it was decided to amend the constitution and the Constitution (First Amendment) Bill, 1951 was passed. The competence of the Parliament to amend the Constitution was also challenged in the Supreme Court which ultimately decided the amendment of Constitution to be valid. In a subsequent reference the Supreme Court also upheld the validity of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950.

The first set of the notification for taking over intermediary interest having an annual income of Rs. 50,000 and above a year was issued on 31st October, 1951. Thereafter several notifications were issued in the succeeding years to vest intermediary interests of lower slab incomes. On 26th January 1955, a general notification was issued by which all intermediary interest in the district vested in the State. As a result of these notifications the entire Zamindari interests within the district with all the proprietory rights except the homestead lands, personal orchard lands in *Khas* cultivating possession of the landlords and lands of factories, Golas etc., belonging to the Ex-landlord vested in the State.

For the administration of the land revenue the district has been divided into 44 Anchals (Appendix "B") each under the charge of a Gazetted officer who deals with the revenue matter in their jurisdiction under the control of the respective Subdivisional Officers. The post of a Deputy Collector, Land Reforms has also been created in each subdivision to assist the Subdivisional Officers in revenue administration. These Anchals are further subdivided

into Halkas, there being approximately 10 Halkas in an Anchal and a total of 430 Halkas in the district, each under the charge of a Karamchari. Gram Panchayats have been formed throughout the district, generally at the rate of 2 Panchayats within a Halka. The total number of Gram Panchayats in the district is 863. The collection of revenue and other matter allied thereto was in the beginning managed through the Karamcharis. The ultimate aim of the Government is, however, to entrust the work of revenue collection to the Gram Panchayats along with their other functions. This is being implemented rapidly and so far 627 Gram Panchayats have been entrusted with the collection of revenue. In the district, administration relating to land revenue and land reforms is carried out by the Additional Collector under the general control of the Collector.

Income from Land Revenue and Special Cesses.

As a result of the vesting of the intermediary interests the State now collects the rent directly. With the successive notifications of the State and with the progressive stablisation of the revenue administration, the rent roll or in other terms the revenue demand has been increasing steadily. The rent demands for the years 1951 onwards are shown in the table below :—

Year.	Demand in rupees Rent (current)
1954-55	34,91,298
1955-56	39,64,304
1956-57	52,39,224
1957-58	53,87,593
1958-59	55,64,439
1959-60	57,40,569
1960-61	66,19,717
1961-62	66,48,181

The complete assessment of the demands has not yet been finalised. The zamindars in many cases did not make over correct *Jamabandies* and some of them did not file any paper whatsoever. To assess the accurate demand of rent and cess, the field *Bujharat* operations were launched whereby complete records were to be prepared in respect of the lands and the income of the rent and cess therefrom in respect of each village. The work is nearing completion when the accurate demand for the district would be available. In any case this demand should be higher than in present figures which are based on *Jamabandies* actually put to realisation. The demand is likely to go further up with the fixation of rent on the *Bakast* lands of the ex-landlords for which no rent was assessed previously. This fixation of rent on the lands in *Khas* cultivating possession of the landlord is now in the final stages.

Sairat.—Besides income from rent and cess the ex-intermediaries also derived income by leasing out Fisheries, *Makhana*, Hats, Bazars, *Melas*, Toddy Mahals, *Khurhuls*. Fruit bearing trees, etc. These are termed *Sairats*. The number of different types of *Sairats* on the rolls of the district are as follows :—

Fisheries	2,588
Makhana	197
Fishery-cum-*Makhana*	247
Others	429

The demand from *Sairats* from the year 1951 and onwards is detailed below :—

Year.	Demand (in rupees).
1954-55	1,03,977
1955-56	3,15,137
1956-57	4,44,572
1957-58	4,49,062
1958-59	4,38,888
1959-60	4,46,841
1960-61	4,62,338
1961-62	4,19,737

Cess.—The District Road Cess Act, 1871 (Bengal Act X of 1871) and the Provincial Public Works Act, 1877 (Bengal Act II of 1877) provided for taxation for the construction and maintenance of roads and other means of communications as also for the construction and the maintenance of public works. The first valuation of the district was made in the year 1876 which placed an annual value of the land at Rs. 58,07,735. Subsequently the aforesaid two Acts were repealed and substituted by the Cess Act, 1880 (Bengal Act IX of 1880) and a revaluation was made in the year 1883 under section 12 of the Act. This revaluation showed the annual value of the land to be Rs. 70,12,943. Revaluation was again made in the year 1896 which yielded still higher figures of Rs. 83,02,783. A rough computation of the landlords' asset has also been made in the *Final Survey and Settlement Report* (1896—1903) and the estimated value was Rs. 70,28,455 approximately. A revaluation of the estates was again done in the year 1908 which placed the assets at Rs. 81,49,499. This figure, although lower than the valuation of 1896, was higher than the estimate made in the *Final Survey and Settlement Report* and the reasons for the difference from valuation of 1896 were attributable to several reasons, e.g., summary assessment, fictitious rent rolls and incorrect areas in Register "D" during the previous revaluations. The last revaluation was done in the year 1920 according to which the annual valuation was Rs. 1,05,65,233 Prior to 1916 cess was payable at the rate of half anna per rupee on the annual value of the estate and tenures and it was known as road cess or Public Works cess. By amendment of 1916 the nomenclature was changed to Local cess and the rate of levy was raised to

Re. 0-1-0 per rupee on the annual valuation. The cess rate was again raised in the year 1944-45 to Re. 0-1-6 per rupee of the annual valuation. The present provisions are for assessment on the annual value of lands at the rate of not less than Re. 0-1-6 or more than Re. 0-2-0 each rupee of the annual value. The maximum rate of Re. 0-2-0 on the rupee was prescribed under Government notification no. 34011-IVC-16-R., dated 13th March 1950.

Prior to the vesting of the estates under the Bihar Land Reforms Act, cess was paid to Government by the ex-intermediaries. Now the realisation of cess from the tenants is done by the State directly. The tenants pay generally at the rate of Re. 0-1-0 on every rupee of the rent payable for their lands according to the provisions of the Cess Act. As in case of the demand of rent collectable from the Raiyats the cess demand also has not been very accurately ascertained. The exact demand will therefore be available only after the field *Bujharat*, etc., are completed. The following table shows the cess demand during the different years :--

Year.	Cess demand (in rupees).	Remarks.
1908	4,84,713	After revision.
1920	6,36,218	Ditto.
1944-45	9,11,361	After enhancement of cess at the rate of Re. 0-1-6 per rupee.
1949-50	12,61,819	After enhancement of rate to Re. 0-2-0 per rupee.
1950-51	11,42,099	According to figures of Cess Department, the fluctuations are due to *suo moto* reduction of cess proceedings.
1951-52	11,42,061	
1952-53	11,41,778	
1953-54	11,41,118	
1954-55 to 1961 62 ..	11,41,118	

Exact amount of cess payable by Government in respect of vested estates and tenures in the district for credit to the District fund is still under computation. For the time being *ad hoc* payments are being made to the District Board.

Special Cess.—For the upkeep of the public embankments cess had been levied on the benefited areas from time to time. In the year 1960 it was decided by the Government to impose Education Cess for implementing the scheme of free and compulsory education. This cess is also realised through the revenue agencies.

The demand of the special cesses from 1951 onwards is shown in the table below :—

Year.	Embankment cess (in rupees).	Education cess (in rupees).
1951-52	5,320	..
1952-53	5,320	..
1953-54	5,320	..
1954-55	5,320	..
1955-56	5,320	..
1956-57	5,320	..
1957-58	5,320	..
1958-59	5,320	..
1959-60	5,320	..
1960-61	5,320	3,57,843
1961-62	5,320	4,28,778

Diaras.—*Jamabandies* received from the ex-landlords in respect of the *Diara* areas were not found to be satisfactory. Since the *Diara* areas were omitted from the cadastral survey and have been subject to constant changes by riverine action, no accurate records in respect of the tenancies appeared to have been maintained. The Zamindars appear to have been making settlements of the lands newly accreted, to raiyats other than those to whom the lands previously belonged. The names of the previous raiyats were also allowed to continue in the *Jamabandi*. The general experience being that there were *Jamabandies* for greater area of lands than actually existed at the spot. It was decided to have a departmental check up of the tenancies by spot measurement. This work is being carried out and is expected to be finished soon (1962).

Land Reforms.—The Zamindari system with a Permanent Settlement was a source of strained relations between the landlords and tenants. The margin of profit secured for the ex-landlords enabled them to enjoy a life of ease and they could overlook the interests of the tenantry with impunity. It may be very well said that the permanent settlement brought a sort of benevolent despotism between the landlords whose interests were well protected by the law and the tenants a comparatively much poorer proletariat. Landlords were made the immediate masters of the tenants by statutory law and the Government could come to their rescue only from a distance. There were only a few Zamindars who maintained their irrigation system in an efficient state or spent over the improvement of their Zamindari. The *Bhoulidars* or those who paid rent in crops were mostly not granted any rent receipts and the attempt was normally to squeeze out as much as possible from them. In the matters of settlement and mutations also the landlords used to realise exhorbitant *Salami*. The tenants cultivating the *Bakast* lands of the landlords were completely at their mercy and were frequently ejected. The landlords were careful that no tenancy rights were created. The Government were alive

to the oppression of the tenantry and took a series of steps of successive legislation and finally by the abolition of Zamindari system by the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950.

An early step taken for protection of the tenants was Regulation VI of 1812 which abolished the power of the Zamindars under Regulation VII of 1799 to arrest raiyats or to distrain their crops in case of default in payment of rent. In 1815 measures were taken for reorganisation of the local village agencies, *Patwaries*, which had existed in Mohammadan time. The Regulation XII of 1817 attempted to convert the *Patwari* from Zamindar's servant to an agent of the Government. His appointment and dismissal rested with the Collector though he continued to be paid by the Zamindar. As was natural under the arrangement no proper control could be exercised over the *Patwaries* as his appointment and removal by the Collector was not sufficient to make him independent of the individual from whom they received their wages.

The village officers did not prove very effective in absence of proper control and practically became a mere servant of the Zamindars. The post of *Kanungos*, which was abolished in 1793 after Permanent Settlement, was re-established by Regulation II of 1816 with duties to compile accurate records for his circle from information supplied by *Patwaries*. He was also required to authenticate or register the execution to *Pattas* and *Kabuliats* between the landlords and tenants. This system also did not work well and the *Kanungos'* post was finally abolished in 1817. By Act X of 1859 the customary rights of the cultivators were acknowledged by law, and an attempt was made to settle the relations between Zamindars and their tenants. With the introduction of Act X of 1859 began a new phase in the history of tenancy. This Act was extended to all provinces in one form or another.

The Survey and Settlement Operations of 1806—1903 for the first time made reliable records of the rights of the tenants and decided many of the long standing anomalies. This was a landmark in the stabilisation of the tenants' interests on the land.

With the spread of education and the political movements the tenants became more alive to their condition. With the success of the Champaran Satyagraha of Mahatma Gandhi, the tenants were freed from the grip of the European indigo planters. In 1922-23 Kisan Sabhas were organised which ventilated the grievances of the tenants and their exploitation at the hands of their landlords. The Kisan Sabha activities aroused an appreciable agitation in the years 1935-36 which embittered relations between the landlords and tenants and quite a large number of disputes arose over the *Bakast* and *Bhouli* lands. The Bihar Restoration of *Bakast* Lands

and Reduction of Arrears of Rent Act, 1938 were passed to meet the explosive situation. In subsequent years the Rent Reduction proceedings and the Rent Commutation proceedings were taken up on a sufficiently large scale for the benefit of the tenantry.

Prior to year 1934 the recognition of any transfer of raiyati lands was at the sweet will of the landlords. Exorbitant *Salamis* used to be charged from the transferee by the landlord for according recognition to the purchase and for mutation of their names. Even after the payment of *Salami*, the purchaser had to execute a deed of surrender with respect of the purchased land and then to take a fresh settlement of the same from the landlord at an enhanced rent. *Salami* could be as high as 25 per cent of the consideration money. The raiyats also had no right to manufacture bricks or tiles or to excavate tanks or dig wells on their raiyati land nor could they erect any building without the consent of the landlord. This consent was purchased only by handsome *Salami*. To ameliorate the condition of the tenants the Bihar Tenancy Amendment Act (8) of 1934 was passed. It recognised all transfers made before 1923 by sale or by gift without transfer fee and for succeeding period of fee of Rs. 4 per cent over the consideration money was fixed as landlord's fee. The Bihar Tenancy Act was further amended in the year 1938 (Bihar Act II of 1938) during the First Congress Ministry in Bihar. The raiyats were given full rights in their lands and with the enforcement of the provisions they could use their lands for all legitimate purposes and dispose of the same at their will without the consent of the landlord. The landlords' fee was reduced to a nominal amount which had to be deposited at the time of the registration of the deed of transfer. The provisions of the Bihar Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1947 brought further relief to the tenantry by conferring upon them the right over all the trees on their holdings. They could now plant trees or bamboos and cut and appropriate the same. They can now also appropriate the flowers and fruits and other products in trees and bamboos. Besides, insertion of section 23(*a*) in the Bihar Tenancy Act by the aforesaid amendment, also entitled the raiyats to get commutation of the rent of any *Bhouli* holding having trees over it (section 40 B). Any realisation of *Tahrir* by the landlords or his agent was made penal. The provisions were also made for the payment of rent by postal money orders so that *Amlas* and the landlords may not avoid the acceptance thereof. The rent commutation proceedings were of particular help to the *Bhoulidars* as the money value of the kind rent was generally much higher than rents fixed on commutation. They also brought recognition to the title of such raiyats as did not have any documentary evidence of the same.

The old tenancy laws did not provide any safeguard for the under-raiyats. By the amendments of the Bihar Tenancy Act in

1938, under-raiyats were granted some statutory rights under section 48(a) of the Act which enabled them to acquire occupancy right on the lands cultivated by them for 12 years or more continuously. Similarly section 48(f) inserted by the amendment of the Bihar Tenancy Act in the year 1945 provided the safeguard for the unlawful eviction of under-raiyats.

A whole Chapter VII-A was added to the Bihar Tenancy Act in the year 1945 restricting alienation of land by the aboriginals. By an amendment effected in the year 1955, the provisions were extended to all members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes. The Privileged Persons Homestead Tenancy Act was enacted in the year 1947 to protect the interests of the members of Scheduled Castes, Backward Tribes and specified classes of the Muslim Community on their homestead lands. But all these legislations were on the periphery of a stabilised land-system. The land-system was found to be uncharitable and the Welfare State that was ushered in after Indpendence in 1947 decided as an All-India Plan to abolish Zamindari system altogether.

The ownership of the cultivable lands was hitherto limited to a small percentage of the population. There was no equitable distribution of land with the result that the major bulk of the population had to be dependant on agricultural labour and on such scanty areas of land as fell to their share. While the large cultivators were incapable in obtaining the maximum yield by intensive cultivation on their lands, the others did not have sufficient lands to utilise their potential man power. The result in both the cases was an unbalanced and uneconomic farming. The disparity in distribution of lands was a serious handicap in all agricultural developments. Accordingly the (Fixation of Ceiling Area and Acquisition of Surplus Land) Act was passed in the year 1961 and is being implemented.

Another handicap which seriously jeopardised good cultivation was fragmentation of the holdings. The lands were, due to successive transfer, partition, etc., torn to very small pieces so much so that a raiyat's holdings lay scattered over considerable areas of the village and besides difficulties in supervision it was frequently rendered difficult to plough them well. For the consolidation of the holdings, Bihar Consolidation of Holdings, and Prevention of Fragmentation Act, 1917 was passed in the year 1956 (Act 22 of 1956).

Bhoodan.—Bhoodan movement was launched by Shri Acharya Binoba Bhave, a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi to equalise the distribution of land so far possible. The removal of the disparity is sought to be done by peaceful and voluntary methods. Persons possessing lands are requested by the workers to donate lands to the best of their ability and the lands received in donation are

settled with landless persons. To facilitate the work of Bhoodan the Government have passed the Bihar Bhoodan Yajna Act, 1954 which provides for the donation and settlement of lands in connection with the movement. A statutory committee known as the Bihar Bhoodan Yajna Committee has been established under section 3 of the Act to administer all lands received in donation. *Danpatras* received are confirmed by the Revenue Officers. Pecuniary help in form of subsidy and loan are given to settlees of the Bhoodan land for purchase of agricultural implements, etc., to help them settle in cultivation. The achievements made in connection with Bhoodan are shown by the following data. To further augment the purposes of Bhoodan Yajna provisions have been made in the Bihar Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling Area and Acquisition of Surplus Land) Act, 1961 for compulsory levy of one *Katha* of land out of every *Bigha* of land held by every cultivator.

With the abolition of Zamindari the responsibility for the efficient management of the irrigation works has devolved on the State Government. The Government have been spending large amounts over the construction and maintenance of irrigation channels, tanks, Bundhs etc. Other works of improvement of *hats*, Bazars providing drinking water facility, etc., are also financed out of revenue funds. Such of the charitable institutions previously maintained by the ex-landlords as have specific properties assigned for their maintenance are also being maintained by Government—

(1) Number of *Danpatras* filed (up to 31st March 1962) ..	22,998
(2) Total area of land donated	19,896.54 acres.
(3) (a) Number of *DanPatras* confirmed	20,098
(b) Number rejected	135
(c) Pending	2,765
(4) Number of Bhoodan tenants with whom settled ..	7,676
(5) Total area settled	19,695.29 acres.

APPENDIX "A"

Statement showing parganas in Darbhanga district.

Subdivision.	Name of thana.	Name of pargana.	Area of pargana or portion of pargana in square mile.	Total area of thana in square mile.
Madhubani ..	Benipatti ..	Bhala	61	
		Nutan	47	
		Bachhaur ..	1	
		Bharwara ..	7	
		Tajpur	16	
		Basautar ..	1	
		Jarail	137	
				270

APPENDIX "A"—*contd.*

Subdivision.	Name of thana.	Name of Pargana.	Area of pargana or portion of pargana in square miles.	Total area of thana in square miles.
Madhubani	Khajauli ..	Jabdi	87	
		Bachhaur ..	142	
		Hati	13	
		Gaur	11	
		Bhala	74	
		Jarail	6	
				328
	Phulparas ..	Alapur	266	
		Bhaur	4	
		Pachahi ..	49	
		Naredigar ..	1	
		Jabdi	66	
		Mokrabpur ..	10	
		Dharaur	35	
		Khand	24	
				455
	Madhubani ..	Jabdi	23	
		Bachhaur ..	29	
		Hati	70	
		Bhaur	81	
		Paribarpur ..	4	
		Gaur	33	
		Gopalpur ..	15	
		Lowam	4	
		Dharaur	2	
		Naredigar ..	3	
		Pachahi	12	
		Jarail	22	
				298
Darbhanga Sadar	Darbhanga ..	Jakhar	6	
		Gopalpur ..	4	
		Lowam ..	9	
		Pindaruch ..	57	
		Berai	19	
		Pariharpur Ragho ..	3	
		Pingi	24	
		Ughara	22	
		Sihora	9	
		Bhadwar ..	16	
		Farukhpur ..	7	
		Pachhim Bhigo ..	18	
		Ram Chaund ..	27	
		Purab Bhigo ..	24	
		Barail	7	
		Jahangirabad ..	9	
		Shahjahanpur ..	21	
		Bharwara ..	122	
		Haweli Darbhanga	4	
		Sarai Hamid ..	4	
		Tirsath	5	
		Fakhrabad ..	1	
		Nanpur	11	
				428

APPENDIX "A"—*concld.*

Subdivision.	Name of thana.	Name of pargana.	Area of Pargana or portion of pargana in square miles.	Total area of thana in square miles.
Darbhanga Sadar	Bahera ..	Chak Mani ..	23	
		Ughara	6	
		Jakhar	3	
		Havi	102	
		Jakhalpur ..	7	
		Abilwara ..	34	
		Tarson	1	
		Salempur Mahua .	4	
		Dharaur	104	
		Ahis	70	
		Lowam	44	
		Salemabad ..	2	
		Fakhrabad ..	1	
		Pariharpur Ragho ..	17	
		Gopalpur	22	
		Pachahi	3	
		Bhaur	1	
		Pingi	2	
		Benua	1	
		Purab Bhigo ..	1	
				448
	Rusera ..	Jakhar	30	
		Kasaina ..	19	
		Jakhalpur ..	48	
		Saraisa	1	
		Padri	87	
		Bade Bhusari ..	2	
		Hamidpur ..	18	
		Benua	44	
		Hirni	32	
		Ahis	1	
		Tarson	34	
		Chak Mani ..	31	
		Abilwara ..	1	
				348
Samastipur ..	Warisnagar ..	Kasma	118	
		Jahangirbad ..	1	
		Shahjahanpur ..	1	
		Kharsand .	5	
		Chak Mani ..	1	
		Barail ..	20	
		Jakhar	50	
				196
	Samastipur ..	Saraisa ..	296	296
	Dalsingsarai ..	Saraisa	178	
		Balagachh .	107	
		Hajipur	1	
				286
		Total area of the district ..		3,348

APPENDIX "B"

Statement showing the names of Anchals in the district of Darbhanga.

Name of Subdivision.	Name of Anchal.
1. Darbhanga Sadar	(1) Darbhanga.
	(2) Singhwara.
	(3) Bahadurpur.
	(4) Jogiyara.
	(5) Hayaghat.
	(6) Ghanshyampur.
	(7) Monigachhi.
	(8) Baheri.
	(9) Benipur.
	(10) Keoti.
	(11) Biraul.
2. Madhubani	(12) Jainagar.
	(13) Basopatti.
	(14) Ladania.
	(15) Khutauna.
	(16) Khajauli.
	(17) Babubarhi.
	(18) Jhanjharpur.
	(19) Andharathadhi.
	(20) Pandaul.
	(21) Rajnagar.
	(22) Madhubani.
	(23) Madhopur.
	(24) Benipatti.
	(25) Bisfi.
	(26) Harlakhi.
	(27) Madhwapur.
	(28) Ghoghardiha.
	(29) Laukahi.
3. Samastipur . ..	(30) Samastipur.
	(31) Sarairanjan.
	(32) Dalsingsarai.
	(33) Bibhutpur.
	(34) Mohiuddinagar.
	(35) Patori.
	(36) Morwa.
	(37) Pusa.
	(38) Kishanpur.
	(39) Kalyanpur.
	(40) Rusera.
	(41) Hasanpur.
	(42) Singia.
	(43) Kusheshwar Asthan.
	(44) Ujiyarpur.

CHAPTER XI

LAW, ORDER AND JUSTICE

Incidence of crime

Darbhanga district has Nepal to the north and portions of Bihar on the other sides. The district is subject to the activities from the criminals inhabiting or operating in the border districts and in Nepal besides those of the local criminals. Criminals commonly cross the border to Nepal after committing crimes and thus help themselves from being quickly apprehended by the police. Occasional contacts are held with the Nepal police for discussions and control of border crimes.

There are a large number of ex-criminal Tribes Act Dusadh criminals in Madhubani subdivision of the district. Their colonies are situated at Raiyam and Rajanpura in P. S. Jhanjharpur, Bhushi, Mohanpur and Beladaura, in Khajauli P. S., Belmohan in Phulparas P. S. and Lohni in Biraul P. S. They used to be registered under Crimimal Tribes Act. Every registered member of the Criminal Tribes Act was to report his movement to the police station concerned and any failure to do so was punishable under section 22 of Criminal Tribes Act. The police used to keep constant surveillance over them. Surprise visits to the Dusadh colonies were normal. With the repeal of this Act in 1953, they became free from the restrictions and thus could commit crimes with impunity. They are said to be habitual criminals and a problem in respect of crime. The following are the number of cases in the different police-stations of the district where Dusadh criminals were involved in dacoity cases under section 395, I. P. C. in 1959 and 1960. The figures are supplied by the Superintendent of Police, Darbhanga.

Name of the P. S.	Number of cases.	Year.
Warisnagar	2	1959
Dalsingsarai	4	1959
Samastipur	3	1959
Rusera	2	1959
Harlakhi	1	1959
Madhubani	3	1959
Bahera	3	1960
Madhepur	4	1960
Warisnagar	2	1960
Khajauli	1	1960
Sadar	1	1960
Phulparas	2	1960
Laukaha	1	1960
Rusera	1	1960
Samastipur	1	1960
Biraul	1	1960

There are a large number of cases under other sections in these two years when Dusadhs have been suspected. The Dusadh criminals of the district have family connections with Jhijha Dusadh criminals of Nepal who carry on depredations in Madhubani subdivision and at times extend their operations to other subdivisions of the district. Besides Jhijha Dusadh criminals of Nepal, other Nepali criminals commit crime in this district. Criminals of Saharsa and North Monghyr are also responsible for a certain percentage of crime in the district.

According to the report of the Superintendent of Police, there are some notorious criminal gangs in this district. An example may be cited here. There is a village Andama under the jurisdiction of Sadar Police Station, Darbhanga at a distance of about 7 miles south-east of Laheriasarai. This village has a criminal gang under the leadership of one Kapileshwar Singh and his brother Ramlochan Singh. These two brothers induced some poor people of the village to criminality and formed a gang called Andama gang. Some major crimes in this district have been committed by the Andama gang. This gang had close associations with notorious criminals such as Damodar Issar of village Bhawanipur, P. S. Bachwara, district Monghyr, and Sheoji Singh of village Dubto, P. S. Mohiuddinagar, district Darbhanga. This gang organised 'Nadaf' gang under the leadership of Bhuna Nadaf of village Barkidain, P. S. Bahera of the district. This formidable gang had practically shaken the district but with the death of some important members of the gang in an encounter in 1959, the crime incidence in the district is somewhat controlled.

The transition period that followed the declaration of independence marked a high incidence of crime as was usual throughout the State in this period. The reasons had their roots in the past. The last great War, after which independence followed, left the country in a certain amount of chaos. The anti-social elements taking advantage of the transition, adopted lawless attitude which was mainly responsible for the high incidence of crimes. In addition there were droughts resulting in failure of crops, continuously for a number of years after independence. The level of high prices created during the last Great War has continued and has led to a certain degree of economic depression which has acted as incentive to crime. After independence, the army was demobilised and illicit traffic in arms followed and this was taken advantage of by criminal gangs. Another opportunity to get firearms presented itself to the criminals in the year 1950 when there was political upheaval in Nepal due to the fight between the King and the Ranas. Darbhanga district being on the border of Nepal, some individuals of this district were successful in obtaining illicitly firearms from Nepal. The rules for granting firearms have also been relaxed and it is possible that some of the anti-social gun-licensees may have been abusing their privileges. There is also a large scale smuggling of non-duty

paid Nepali Ganja into the district. Gangs some of which include middle-class educated man are said to be engaged in this illicit traffic. Kidnapping of young girls from this district is also not uncommon although very few of them are reported.

The names of some of the criminal gangs operating in the district till the end of 1961 given by the Police office are as follows :—

(1) Dhorha Thakur's gang of Raipur, P. S. Shakra, district Muzaffarpur, and Dhopgaun, P. S. Tajpur, district Darbhanga.

(2) Sadanand Prasad's gang of Raipur, P. S. Shakra. district Muzaffarpur and Dhopgaun, P. S. Tajpur, district Darbhanga.

(3) Andama gang of Sadar P. S., district Darbhanga.

(4) Hatha-samvahi gang of Shakra P. S., district Muzaffarpur and Terma Ratanpur, P. S. Sadar, district Darbhanga.

(5) Damodar Issar's gang of Bachhwara P. S., district Monghyr and Dalsingsarai P. S., district Darbhanga.

(6) Chhotan Singh's gang of Mahthi P. S. Dalsingsarai, district Darbhanga.

(7) Atzauli gang of North Monghyr.

(8) Babaji Goala's gang of Kharia, P. S. Pupri, district Muzaffarpur.

(9) Jadunandan Maliah's gang of Chakhaidar, P. S. Warisnagar, district Darbhanga.

(10) Anandi Hajam's gang of Khagaria (North Monghyr).

(11) Bashi Bhindi gang of Tajpur P. S., district Darbhanga.

(12) Balo Singh's gang of Madhurapur, P. S. Rusera, district Darbhanga.

(13) Kesho Tiar's gang of Tijkeshwar, P. S. Singhia, district Darbhanga.

(14) Shitaram Sharma's gang of Balkunda, P. S. Mohua, district Muzaffarpur.

(15) Diljan Dhamia's gang of Tarichi, P. S. Laukaha, district Darbhanga.

(16) Khusialpatty's gang of Khusialpatty, P. S. Laukaha, district Darbhanga.

(17) Jhanghapatti's gang of Jhanghapatti, P. S. Laukaha, district Darbhanga.

(18) Prayag Lal Jadab's gang of Bikramasher, P. S. Phulparas, district Darbhanga (connected with Nepal criminals).

(19) Nanda Totema's gang of Jogia, P. S. Ladania, district Darbhanga (connected with Nepal criminals).

(20) Pachgachhia gang of Pachgachhia, P. S. Biraul, district Darbhanga.

(21) Nayagaun Dusadh's gang of Nayagaon, P. S. Sadar, district Darbhanga.

(22) Bhangi Dusadh's gang of Bhangi, P. S. Bahera, district Darbhanga.

(23) Terma Ratanpura Dusadh's gang of Sadar P. S., district Darbhanga.

(24) Lahai Dusadh's gang of Lahai, P. S. Biraul, district Darbhanga.

(25) Satashi Dal of Panchov, P. S. Sadar, district Darbhanga.

(26) Phuchar Jha' gang of Vijjan, P. S. Bahera, district Darbhanga.

(27) Balmohan Dusadh's gang of Phulparas, district Darbhanga.

(28) Jhijha Dusadh's gang of Nepal (operates in this district).

(29) Gopal Krishna's gang of Nepal (operates in this district).

(30) Bahadur Dusadh's gang of Morchamuk, P. S. Muzaffarpur town.

(31) Raiyam Dusadh's gang of Raiyam, P. S. Jhanjharpur, Dist. Darbhanga.

(32) Mahthour's gang of Phulparas P. S., district Darbhanga (connected with Nepal criminals).

The following two tables show the incidence of crimes under different heads in the district from 1950 to 1960 :—

TABLE 1.

CRIME STATISTICS.

Crimes under different heads from 1950 *to* 1960.

Year	Murder.	Dacoity.	Robbery.	Riot.	Ordinary theft.	Cattle theft.	House breaking.	Kidnapping	Sex crimes.	Smuggling
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1950	31	73	22	463	698	28	1,568	17	3	26
1951	25	145	33	425	766	34	1,049	26	6	127
1952 . ..	45	136	33	575	540	37	1,883	28	6	103
1953 . ..	28	93	29	689	868	30	1,861	28	10	82
1954	25	98	38	683	859	34	1,751	35	22	61
1955	26	47	18	390	760	12	1,473	81	13	58
1956	26	56	11	343	820	13	1,526	20	7	33
1957	21	66	20	396	834	17	1,549	21	4	31
1958	32	38	18	302	655	30	1,266	26	5	28
1959	24	32	12	389	643	28	1,528	18	6	526
1960	43	34	27	472	819	20	1,850	33	11	41

TABLE 2.

Total cognizable crimes from 1950 to 1960 reported to Police only.

Year.		Total cognizable reported.	Charge-sheeted.	Convicted	Acquitted.
1950	..	3,513	665	239	426
1951	..	3,099	531	278	253
1952	..	4,283	735	337	398
1953	..	4,463	868	313	555
1954	.	3,470	718	267	451
1955	..	4,533	730	304	426
1956	..	3,569	933	251	682
1957	..	3,640	895	283	612
1958	..	3,073	1,127	340	787
1959	..	3,475	990	342	648
1960	..	3,653	1,029	358	671

The figures given above show that there was a rise in the number of dacoities, robberies, riots, etc., during the years 1950 to 1954. This was a period of scarcity in this district. Another remarkable feature was the detection of cases of smuggling which suddenly rose up to the huge number of 526 in 1959 as compared with only 28 in the previous year and 41 in the following year for which no explanation is available. This is rather intriguing and no cogent reason is available. It is quite possible that the staff became strictly vigilant in 1959 but this will mean there was a wide-scale leakage before.

Organisation of the police force

As regards the Police Administration, Mr. L. S. S. O' Malley, I. C. S., observes as follows :—*

"For police purposes the district is divided into 10 thanas or police circles, viz., Darbhanga, Bahera and Rosera, in the head-quarters subdivision ; Madhubani, Benipatti, Khajauli and Phulparas, in the Madhubani subdivision ; and Samastipur, Dalsingsarai and Warisnagar, in the Samastipur subdivision. Besides these, there are 10 independent outposts and 2 beat houses, and there are

*District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907), page 12).

thus 22 centres for the investigation of crime. The machinery employed for the protection of person and property consists of the regular or district police, including the town police, and of the rural force or village watch. The former consisted in 1905 of the District Superintendent of Police, 5 Inspectors, 37 Sub-Inspectors, 1 Sergeant, 32 Head Constables and 410 constables; and the latter of 289 *dafadars* and 4,530 *chaukidars*. The cost of the regular force was Rs. 1,03,000 and there was one policeman to every 6.7 square miles and to every 5,919 persons, as compared with the average of 4¾ square miles and 3,194 persons for the whole of Patna Division."

The sanctioned strength of the police force of this district in 1960 was one Superintendent of Police, 4 Deputy Superintendents (one temporary), 4 Inspectors, 48 permanent Sub-Inspectors, 2 temporary Sub-Inspectors, one temporary Sub-Inspector (armed police), one Reserve Inspector, 62 permanent Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 2 temporary Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 2 temporary Assistant Sub-Inspectors (armed police), 614 constables, 30 temporary constables, 271 armed permanent constables 343 armed temporary constables (including *Anchal*), 292 *dafadars* and 2,905 *chaukidars*. It will work out that one constable is meant for 15,000 to 16,000 population.

The police administration of the district is headed by the Superintendent of Police with headquarters at Laheriasarai (Darbhanga). He is under the administrative control of the District Magistrate, the Deputy Inspector-General with headquarters at Muzaffarpur and the Inspector-General of Police, Bihar, Patna. He is assisted by two Deputy Superintendents of Police at the district level, one Deputy Superintendent in-charge of Madhubani subdivision and one in-charge of Samastipur subdivision. Each of the three subdivisions (Sadar, Samastipur and Madhubani) has one Police Inspector who is a gazetted officer. One Inspector of Police was placed in-charge of Khajauli Police Circle in Madhubani subdivision.

The subdivisions are subdivided into smaller areas each of which is under a police station. Police station is defined in section 4 (s) Cr. P. C. and is the unit of investigation. For the purpose of police administration, all the investigating centres are known as police stations. A police station is generally manned by one Sub-Inspector, one Assistant Sub-Inspector, one writer-constable and 10 constables. The average area of a police station is about 150 square miles with a population of about 1,50,000. Each police-station contains a number of *dafadari* circle, each of which is under a *dafadar*. Each *dafadari* circle is further subdivided into still smaller areas, each of which is looked after by a *chaukidar*. Usually a village has a *chaukidar*. A large village will have more than one *chaukidar*.

For the purposes of police administration, the district has been subdivided into four circles—(1) Darbhanga, (2) Samastipur, (3) Madhubani and (4) Khajauli circle under Madhubani subdivision. Each of these circles is under an Inspector of Police. The incidence of crime of Khajauli area has been responsible for the posting of an Inspector of Police there.

(1) *Darbhanga Sadar Subdivision circle.*—It has the following police units—(*a*) Laheriasarai police station, (*b*) Darbhanga Town police station, (*c*) Sadar police station, (*d*) Bahera police station, (*e*) Biraul police station and (*f*) Jalley police station. Besides these there are two outposts, viz., (*i*) Keoti outpost and (*ii*) Singhwara outpost. Both of these outposts are under Sadar police station.

(2) *Samastipur Circle.*—It has the following police stations under it—(*a*) Samastipur, (*b*) Tajpur, (*c*) Warisnagar, (*d*) Mohiuddinagar, (*e*) Dalsingsarai, (*f*) Rusera and (*g*) Singia. Tajpur policestation has the Pusa outpost under it and Rusera police station has Hathouri outpost under it.

(3) *Madhubani Circle.*—It has the following police stations under it—(*a*) Madhubani, (*b*) Jhanjharpur, (*c*) Benipatti, (*d*) Harlakhi and (*e*) Madhwapur.

(4) *Khajauli Circle.*—It has the following police stations (*a*) Khajauli, (*b*) Jaynagar, (*c*) Phulparas, (*d*) Laukaha, (*e*) Ladania and (*f*) Madhepur.

The towns in the district have town outposts, besides their police stations. These town outposts are under the police stations of their respective towns. Town outposts are established in towns or remote parts of mofussil police stations for the purpose of patrolling and surveillance and, generally, for the prevention of crime. They are not investigating centres, and the officer-in-charge usually a Havildar, though responsible for the manning of the post, only performs the duties he would carry on if posted to the parent police station, subject in the same way under the control and direction of the Sub-Inspector. Laheriasarai police station has three, Darbhanga town has five, Samastipur town has one, Rusera town has one, Jaynagar town has one and Madhubani town has two outposts.

For the prosecution of the criminal cases in the Magistrates' courts there is one Senior District Prosecutor equivalent to the rank of a D. S. P., posted at Laheriasarai. He is helped by Assistant District Prosecutors if necessary. The remaining two subdivisions has one A. D. P. each for the purpose. The scheme of D. Ps. and A. D. Ps. was introduced in this district in 1953. An A. D. P. is appointed from the rank of practising junior lawyers and also police officers with knowledge of law and experience of prosecution cases in courts.

To help the regular police force the following three categories of establishment have been established (1) Anchal Force, (2) Home Guards and (3) Village Resistance Group.

Anchal Force

This force was raised in 1956 mainly for the purpose of guarding and escorting Government revenues entrusted to the B. D. Os. in different Community Development Centres. The strength of the force is likely to increase with the increase in the number of blocks. The unit for each Anchal consists of one Havildar and 8 constables.

In 1961 the strength of this force was as follows :— (1) Quarter Master Sergeant 1, (2) Reserve Sub-Inspector 1, (3) Jamadar 1, (4) A. S. Is.2, (5) Havildars 42, (6) constables 290.

Home Guards

This force was organised in 1948 in Darbhanga district according to the Bihar Home Guards Act, 1947 (Bihar Act XX of 1947), with a view to help the administration in various aspects especially the Police Department for patrolling and raising Village Resistance Groups in crime affected areas, prevention of crimes and maintenance of law and order. At present (1961) the strength of the force is as follows :— (1) Company Commandars 4, (2) Havildar clerk 1, (3) Office orderly 1, (4) Home Guard volunteers 375.

For the enrolment of any person as a Home Guard, the following qualifications are required :—

(*a*) age not less than 19 and not more than 40 years on the first day of January of the year;

(*b*) a good moral character ;

(*c*) physical fitness ;

(*d*) a height of not less than 5′-4″ and chest measurement not less than 31″ (unexpanded);

(*e*) a pass at least in the upper primary test or equivalent examination ;

Every Home Guard volunteer shall after his enrolment undergo a course of training for a period of not more than three months in—

(*i*) Infantry drills including arms drills, (*ii*) weapon training, (*iii*) musketry course, (*iv*) first aid, (*v*) fire-fighting, (*vi*) map reading, (*vii*) field craft, (*viii*) legal powers of Home Guard, (*ix*) internal security and anti-dacoity operation, (*x*) battle drill, (*xi*) traffic and mob control, (*xii*) lathi drill, (*xiii*) bayonet training, (*xiv*) military education and (*xv*) such duties as prescribed under rule 3 of Home Guard Rules.

The duty of every Home Guard is to assist in the maintenance of peace and tranquility, to inculcate the habit of self-reliance and discipline and to develop a sense of civic responsibilities amongst the citizens of the State and to assist the maintenance of essential services for which they are trained. The Home Guards may be required to perform all or any of the following duties :—

(a) prevention of commission of crimes; (b) protection of life and property; (c) assistance in the organisation and functioning of village guards; (d) collection and communication of intelligence concerning law and order to the immediate superiors; (e) suppression of disorders ; (f) to report and check currency of rumours likely to disturb peace; (g) to assist fire-fighting services and (h) to render first-aid and help in the removal of casualties to hospitals.

During the period on which a Home Guard is on active service (excluding the period spent over training) or in the reserve force, he shall receive duty allowance at the rate Rs. 1-8-0 in addition to ration in accordance with the scale per day. Provided that if the hours of duty is less than three hours a day, the Home Guard will draw a duty allowance of Re. 1 but no rations. During the period of training every Home Guard shall receive a free boarding and lodging besides a training allowance of Rs. 30 a month.

Village Resistance Group.—The Village Resistance Group was started in 1950 and the groups are still being raised in crime affected areas by local police in co-ordination with village and Home Guard volunteers. These groups are formed out of the public for the purpose of patrolling in anti-crime drives in the different police stations. The villagers are being exhorted to organise themselves into a disciplined body and to enrol volunteers. In addition to this the Panchayats organise village volunteer force in each Panchayat. They are also to act with the regular and rural police for the purpose of law and order and crime control measures.

The number and distribution of Village Resistance Groups in this district is as follows :—

Samastipur P.S. 350, Rusera P.S. 308, Warisnagar P.S. 333, Dalsingsarai P.S. 409, Mohiuddinagar P.S. 184, Singia P.S. 386, Tajpur P.S. 216, Darbhanga Town P.S. 85, Sadar P.S. 545, Bahera P.S. 148, Biraul P.S. 194, Jalley P.S. 92, Madhubani P.S. 409, Benipatti P.S. 338, Jhanjharpur P.S. 193, Harlakhi P.S. 154, Madhepur P.S. 85, Khajauli P.S. 449, Jaynagar P.S. 242, Phulparas P.S. 369, Laukaha P.S. 168, Ladania P.S. 98 and Madhwapur P.S. 150.

Radio and Wireless Station.—There are 4 wireless stations in the district for receiving and transmitting information distributed as follows :—

Laheriasarai 2, one of which deals with information to and from the two subdivisions, Samastipur 1, Madhubani 1.

District Crime Bureau.—The Bureau consists of one Inspector, two Sub-Inspectors, two writer-constables and one constable. They belong to the Criminal Investigation Department staff and work in plain clothes. Their main duty is to maintain records of criminal gangs operating within and outside the district and help the Regular Police Force in investigation and detection of cases and crime control work.

A section of this bureau manned by a Criminal Investigation Department Inspector deals mainly with passports. It is manned by one Inspector, Criminal Investigation Department of the Special Branch and one clerk.

Government Railway Police.—There are two Government railway police stations in the district, one at Samastipur Railway Station and the other at the Darbhanga Railway Station. There is one Government railway police outpost also at Jaynagar under Darbhanga Government railway police. The strength of the Samastipur Government railway police station is one Sub-Inspector, two Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 18 constables. Its jurisdiction extends from Samastipur to Garhpura, Samastipur to Thalwar, Samastipur to Pusa Road, Samastipur to Dalsingsarai Railway stations. The jurisdiction thus extends to about 83 running miles of N. E. Railway line. The railway stations from Shahpurpatori to Vidyapatinagar fall in Darbhanga district but it is under the jurisdiction of Barauni (Monghyr district) Government railway police covering 22 running miles.

The strength of Darbhanga Government railway police station is two Sub-Inspectors, two Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 18 constables, besides one Assistant Sub-Inspector and 5 constables posted at Jaynagar railway outpost. The jurisdiction of Darbhanga Government railway police-station extends from Darbhanga to Laheriasarai, Darbhanga to Jogiara, Darbhanga to Sakri, Sakri to Jaynagar and Sakri to Ghoghardiha railway stations. Its jurisdiction thus extends to about 95 running miles of the N. E Railway. Both these Government railway police stations are under the Inspector, railway Police posted at Samastipur who is under the direct control of the Superintendent, Railway Police posted at Muzaffarpur.

The main function of the Railway Police is to check crimes on the railways. The section has to control crime in an important area with Samastipur as a divisional headquarters for the railway.

Railway Protection Force.—There is one railway protection post at Samastipur railway station and one outpost at Darbhanga railway station in the district. The jurisdiction of the post and the outpost of the railway protection force extends from Samastipur to Dalsingsarai, Samastipur to Pusa Road, Samastipur to Garapura, Samastipur to Jogiara, Darbhanga to Sakri, Sakri to Ghoghardiha and Sakri to Jaynagar. The jurisdiction thus extends to about 178 running miles. The railway stations from Shahpurpatori to Vidyapatinagar covering 22 running miles fall in Darbhanga district, but it is under the jurisdiction of Sonepur railway protection post. Both the post and outpost are under the Sub-Inspector, Railway Protection Force, Samastipur who is under the direct control of the Assistant Security Officer, N. E. Railway, posted at Muzaffarpur and the Chief Security Officer, N. E. Railway, posted at Gorakhpur, in Uttar Pradesh.

The Railway Protection Force is primarily responsible for ensuring safe passages of goods and parcels entrusted to the railway and for protecting the railway property.

Police Reserve.—The Police Reserve at the headquarters of the district is divided for the purpose of organisation into Ordinary Police Reserve and the Armed Police Reserve.

Ordinary Police Reserve is maintained to supply guards and escorts, to strengthen police stations and outposts and in emergency to furnish parties to attend Magistrates' Courts and to fill vacancies caused by leave and casualties. It remains under constant drill and instructions and it forms the nucleus of the district police and receives the particular attention of the Superintendent of Police.

Armed Police Reserve is a part of the reserve and kept at headquarters in readiness for dealing with local disturbances. It is kept intact and in full strength. The strength of the Armed Police Reserve in the district is one Sergeant Major, four Havildars and 50 constables. This force cannot be employed on miscellaneous duties or sent away from headquarters without the authority of the District Magistrate or the Inspector-General of Police, but it may be called upon to furnish the magazine guard when there are unusual heavy demand on the ordinary reserve and there is no likelihood of the armed police being required for urgent duty elsewhere. If the District Magistrate is absent and prompt action is needed, the Superintendent of Police can move the Armed Police Reserve on his own responsibility informing the District Magistrate as quickly as possible.

Anti-Corruption.—To eradicate corruption in the services the Government has sponsored an Anti-Corruption Department under the Political Department of the Government of Bihar with headquarters in Patna Secretariat. This department has a moving

squad consisting of one Inspector, one writer constable and one constable who work in Darbhanga district. They work under the Deputy Superintendent, Anti-Corruption Department, posted at Muzaffarpur who in his turn works under the Deputy Secretary, Political Department (Anti-Corruption). This department is quite separate from the police organisation but has necessary contacts when necessary.

Jails and Lock-ups.—There is one District Jail of first class status at Laheriasarai, Darbhanga. It is located about one mile west of Laheriasarai railway station. This jail is a very old one.

The old double-storied building was destroyed in the earthquake of 1934 and consequently a new structure had to be erected in its place. A few temporary barracks were added to accommodate a large number of political prisoners during the 1942 Movement. The present capacity of this jail is sufficient for 731 male and 7 female prisoners.

The following statement shows the daily average population of Darbhanga District Jail for the last ten years :—

Year.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1951	548.09	6.82	554.91
1952	568.04	9.56	577.60
1953	483.37	8.57	491.94
1954	483.37	8.57	491.94
1955	514.31	15.02	529.33
1956	461.54	7.54	469.08
1957	405.42	5.60	411.02
1958	523.21	8.66	531.87
1959	506.88	7.91	514.79
1960	471.37	9.74	481.11

Prior to 1945 the Civil Surgeon of Darbhanga used to be incharge of the jail, in addition to his duties as the Civil Surgeon. But since 1945 this is under a whole time Superintendent. The sanctioned strength of the staff is one Jailer, two Assistant Jailors and one clerk, but actually there are at present one Jailor and four Assistant Jailors. Besides these the Jail has five head-warders and fifty-one warders including two female warders. This Jail has

a hospital with 35 beds for the treatment of prisoners and the Jail staff. This hospital has on its staff one whole time Sub Assistant Surgeon and one compounder who work under the supervision of the Civil Surgeon of Darbhanga, but are under the administrative control of the Superintendent of the Jail.

This Jail has attached to it a garden of 12.3 acres out of which two acres contain lemon trees and two acres generally remain uncultivated while the rest is cultivated. This Jail has a small diary farm maintained inside the Jail and the products are used for the Jail inmates.

Besides this District Jail, there are two subsidiary Jails one at Madhubani with accommodation for 70 male and 5 female prisoners and the other at Samastipur with a capacity of 75 male and five female prisoners. Each of the subsidiary Jails is under the charge of the Civil Assistant Surgeon of the subdivisional hospital, who is a part time Superintendent of the Jail also. The Samastipur Subsidiary Jail has one Assistant Jailor, one clerk, two head-warders and 10 warders. The Subsidiary Jail at Madhubani has one Assistant Jailor, one clerk, one head-warder and eight warders.

With the introduction of more human treatment of prisoners and gradual abolition of corporal punishment and exaction of meaningless, degrading and arduous work such as human-driven *ghanis*, prison discipline has become more and more a matter of intelligent and sympathetic understanding of the prisoners on the part of the Jail staff and co-operation from the prisoners. There has been a commendable change in the attitude to cope with the problem of the prisoners.

The convicted prisoners are trained in weaving cloth, *Dari* and *Newar* and are engaged in such other work as bullock driven oil presses and intensive vegetable gardening. The educated prisoners impart elementary education up to the Upper Primary standard to their fellow prisoners. With the help of the Education Department a Social Education Centre is also run inside the Jail. The prisoners are occasionally treated to film shows by the Public Relations Department. The Jail has a library to which the prisoners are allowed access. Some newspapers are also provided for the prisoners.

There are one Hindu and one Muslim religious instructors who give the prisoners religious and ethical discourses besides conducting prayers on Sundays and Fridays. The prisoners are allowed to celebrate the important festivals in an appropriate manner. They are given occasional facilities for musical recreation also. There is an arrangement for execution of death sentences also in this Jail.

With the enforcement of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, in the State and release of prisoners on parole there has been a far-reaching and fundamental change in the treatment of offenders. The words 'probation' was used in our Statute Book as far back as in 1898. Section 562 of the Cr. P. C. used this word. It was provided therein that certain types of offenders committing trivial offences could be let off on probation of good conduct. The scope of this provision was extended with the amendment of Cr. P. C. in 1923. It was provided that the first offenders committing offences punishable with imprisonment for less than two years could be released on admonition. Suitable first offenders aged below 21 and woman when not liable to be punished either with death or transportation for life and adult males above 21 when not punishable with a term of imprisonment exceeding seven years could be released on probation of good conduct. No machinery was provided to the courts for ascertaining facts regarding the personality and character, social circumstances and prospect of rehabilitation of offenders in order to individualise punishment prior to the passing of Probation of Offenders Act, 1958.

After the enforcement of this Act in the latter part of the year 1959 in this district, there has been a change in the method of dealing with the offenders. To implement this scheme at present there is a Probation Officer posted at Laheriasarai, Darbhanga, who works under the Principal Probation Officer who also is the Superintendent of Darbhanga District Jail.

The grant of probation in the circumstances is not a final disposal of the order to the offenders. The court merely suspends the infliction of punishment and subjects the offenders to a suitable process of trials. As stated above, an agency is provided to the courts where an offender can be supervised and treated through counselling and guidance while he is allowed to remain at large and assisted through the mobilisation of social assistance for him. Since the enforcement of the Act, six offenders in 1959, 45 in 1960 and 35 in 1961 were released.

The salient features of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, are as follows :—

(1) Courts have been given the power to place any offender on probation who is found guilty of having committed any offence not punishable with death or imprisonment of life provided, in the circumstances of the case, including the nature of the offence and the character of the offender, such a course is considered expedient by the court.

(i) Restriction on the use of probation based on age, sex and previous conviction as contained in section 562, Cr. P. C. have been removed.

(*ii*) The Act envisages a regular machinery for enquiring into the personality, character, antecedents and home surroundings of the offenders, which is to assist the court in determining the most suitable method of dealing with him.

(*iii*) It envisages a special machinery to supervise probationers as well as to advise and assist them while on probation, as well after discharge from the same.

(*iv*) It envisages a release of an offender on various types of conditions including residential requirement and payment of compensation by him.

(*v*) It makes probation enquiries mandatory in cases of offenders below 21 years of age, where the provisions of the Act are applicable.

Juvenile prisoners, female prisoners and habitual offenders are kept separate from the prisoners of other categories.

Under-trial prisoners also are kept separate from the convicts. No work is taken from them except keeping their own personal equipments and wards clean. Juvenile prisoners undergoing sentence of more than three months are sent to Borstal School at Daltonganj where special facilities are provided for them.

There is a Board of Visitors consisting of officials and non-officials for the Jail.

Criminal Justice.—Mr. L.S.S. O'Malley, I.C.S., mentions as follows:—

"Criminal Justice is administered by the District and Sessions Judge, the District Magistrate and the various Deputy and Sub-Deputy Magistrates at the headquarters and subdivisional stations. The sanctioned staff at Darbhanga consists, in addition to the District Magistrate, of four Deputy Magistrates of the first class and one Deputy Magistrate of the second or third class. Besides these officers, an Assistant Magistrate and one or two Sub-Deputy Magistrates exercising second or third class powers are generally posted there. The Subdivisional Officers at Madhubani and Samastipur are almost invariably officers vested with first class powers, and they are usually assisted by Sub-Deputy Magistrates of the second class. There are also benches of Honorary Magistrates at Darbhanga (8 members), Madhubani (9 members), Rusera (11 members) and Samastipur (3 members), all of whom exercise second class powers. In all, there are 31 Honorary Magistrates, of whom nine are authorised to sit singly."*

*District Gazetteer, Darbhanga (1907), p. 128.

Previous to 1st July, 1957, original criminal cases were tried by the Magistrates either of Bihar Civil Service or of Subordinate Civil Service commonly known as Deputy and Sub-Deputy Magistrates or by Sessions Judges. There were also Honorary Magistrates of first, second or third class powers. The Magistrates used to be vested with criminal powers of either first, second or third class.

According to the Amendment Act 26 of 1955 in Cr. P. C., the Magistrate with first class powers could pass sentences for imprisonment either simple or rigorous for a term not exceeding two years and fine not exceeding two thousand rupees. The Magistrate with second class powers could pass sentences for imprisonment either simple or rigorous for a term not exceeding six months and fine not exceeding five hundred rupees. The Magistrate with third class powers could pass sentences for imprisonment either simple or rigorous for a term not exceeding one month and fine not exceeding one hundred rupees. The Court of any Magistrate may pass any lawful sentence combining any of the sentences which is authorised by law to pass. They were under the administrative control of the District Magistrate. The Magistrates of first class were empowered to hold preliminary enquiries in cases triable by the Court of Sessions and commit them to the Court of Sessions. They commit the accused persons to stand their trial in the Sessions Court after finding a *prima facie* case proved against them on evidence adduced and on perusal of documents produced before them. Commitment is an order passed by the Magistrate of first class in an enquiry under Chapter XVIII of the Cr. P.C. of the offences triable by the Court of Sessions. The original cases used to be heard and evidence taken by first class Magistrates only and if a *prima facie* case is made out the accused are committed to the Court of Sessions to stand their trial there. Appeals from the decisions of second and third class Magistrates were heard by the District Magistrate or some other Magistrate specially empowered under Section 407 Cr.P.C. to hear appeals. Appeals from the decisions of First Class Magistrates were heard by the District Judge or the Additional District Judge. The decisions of the District or Additional District Judges could be taken up in appeal to the Patna High Court under section 710, Cr. P. C.

Under the above set-up the District Magistrate, Subdivisional Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates had the dual role of the administration of Criminal Justice besides their executive work. In his executive capacity a Magistrate has to maintain law and order and see to the prevention of breach of peace. This dual system of mixing up the executive and judicial functions in the one and same person was not an unmixed good and often did not inspire confidence to the litigants that justice was being done. In this dual capacity a Magistrate had to tour out of headquarters for days, run other administrative duties and be always ready for

receiving and giving orders to meet in exigencies of adminis'ration. Naturally his time was divided and he could not possibly give an exclusive attention to the disposal of cases. Long adjournments, harassment of witnesses by being kept over and delay in delivering orders were common features.

As a Magistrate in his executive capacity an officer often came to acquire extra judicial information about a particular case and it was difficult for him to completely disabuse his mind of all that when he sat as a Court to hold the scale of justice even. The dispensation of impartial justice was not always possible under the above system where the District Magistrate, Subdivisional Magistrates and the Deputy Magistrates or Sub-Deputy Magistrates exercised executive as well as judicial functions, and were connected with police administration. Such officers were commonly taken to have a bias towards passing orders of conviction. It was felt that if fair and impartial justice was to be done there should be a separation of the two functions and one and the same person should not be made both Judge and an Executive Magistrate. Article 50 of the Indian Constitution enacted on the 26th January 1950 also gave this directive that, "the State shall take steps to separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services".

Broadly speaking there are two categories of criminal cases; one under the provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the other under Acts other than the Indian Penal Code, such as, Police Act, Indian Railways Act, Cattle Trespass Act, Cruelty to Animals Act, Factories Act, Payment of Wages Act, Motor Vehicles Act, Payment of Minimum Wages Act, Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act, Bihar Sales Tax Act, Treasure Trove Act, Indian Boilers Act, Bengal Vaccination Act, Punitive and Preventive Sections 144, 145, 107, 109, 110 of Cr. P. C., etc.

The Bihar Government under Resolution no. 5866-A, dated the 1st December 1946, appointed a committee to frame a practical scheme for the separation of judicial and executive functions. The committee was headed by Mr. Justice Meredith. The committee after examining various aspects of judicial and executive functions, submitted a report to the Government with their recommendation in support of separation of judiciary functions from executive in one and the same man. As per recommendations of Meredith Committee, the scheme of separation of judiciary from executive was introduced in this district from the 1st July, 1957. Deputy Magistrates or Sub-Deputy Magistrates whose services were placed under the High Court exclusively meant for judicial work known as Judicial Magistrates and the Munsifs vested with criminal powers known as Munsif-Magistrates were put under the administrative control of the District Judge while the Executive Magistrates were put under the administrative control of the District Magistrate.

There are two types of cases, viz., cognizable and non-cognizable. Cognizable cases are those which are taken cognizance of by the police or by the Magistrate specially empowered under section 190, sub-section (2) of Cr. P. C. The police investigates under section 156, Cr. P. C. and submit final reports or chargesheets under section 173, Cr.P.C. to the Subdivisional Magistrates concerned. If a case is made out and the accused has to stand his trial, a chargesheet is submitted. They are ripe for hearing and the Subdivisional Magistrate transfers them under section 192, Cr. P. C. to the Munsif Magistrates or Judicial Magistrates for trial. If the police investigation does not make out a tangible case against the accused, the police will submit a Final Report which usually means that irrespective of the fact whether the case is true or not, the case is not fit to come to trial. But the police attitude to the case is not final. The Subdivisional Magistrate has to apply his judicial mind; he may agree with the police report, accept it or he has the prerogative to order the police to submit chargesheet, if he thinks the police report should not be accepted. The Magistrate has the right to call the case-diary maintained by the police for studying if a proper investigation has been made by the police. After chargesheet is submitted, the case is sent for trial to the Munsif-Magistrates or to the Judicial Magistrates.

Complaints for offences can also be filed by the aggrieved party before the Subdivisional Magistrates or the Magistrates specially empowered to take complaints. Usually complaints for non-cognizable offences are made before the Magistrate who is empowered to take complaints. If from the statement on oath of the complainant, the Magistrate concerned concludes that the case is *prima facie* not made out, he may dismiss the complaint under section 203, Cr. P. C. If he wants, he may hold an enquiry himself or he may order under section 202, Cr. P. C. any Magistrate or the police or any respectable person to hold an enquiry. On getting the report he may hold or order for further enquiry or he may dismiss the complaint or he may summon the accused. When the accused is summoned and the presence of the accused is secured the case is transferred to the Munsif Magistrate or the Judicial Magistrate for trial. The Magistrate's order could be taken to the District Judge in appeal or review under section 407, Cr. P. C. The aggrieved party may file a petition under section 435, Cr. P. C. against the order of the Magistrate before the District Judge for revision or review of the order.

Appeals from the decisions of conviction or acquittal of the Munsif-Magistrates and the Judicial Magistrates are heard by the Sessions Judge or Additional Judge to whom the cases are transferred by the District and Sessions Judge. An aggrieved party may take the decisions of the District or Additional District Judge to the Patna High Court and finally to the Supreme Court. In Supreme

Court an appeal will only lie on the point of law and under special leave.

Those cases that do not come under the purview of the Indian Penal Code, but are offences against other Acts mentioned above are filed by the Department concerned and by the police and triable by the Executive Magistrates. Only under sections 144, 145 and 107, Cr. P. C. the third party may also put the law in motion.

The following is the distributions of the Executive Magistrates and Honorary Executive Magistrates in Darbhanga district (1961):—

Number of Executive Magistrates.	Powers.	Place of posting.
7	First Class	Laheriasarai.
1	Second Class	Ditto.
1 (Honorary)	Ditto	Ditto.
4	First Class	Samastipur.
2 (Honorary)	Second Class	Ditto.
4	First Class	Madhubani.

The District and Sessions Judge is both the judicial and administrative head of the Judgeship. He is usually a member of the Bihar Judicial Service and has served years as a Munsif and a Sub-Judge. He may also have been recruited direct from the Bar. The Additional District Judge is also either a member of the Bihar Judicial Service or recruited from the Bar.

There is a District Judge and one Additional District and Sessions Judge in this judgeship posted at Laheriasarai (Darbhanga). There are seven permanent Courts of Sub-Judges at Laheriasarai (Darbhanga) and one at Samastipur. They are vested with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge. The Court of Sub-Judge was established at Samastipur in 1957. The appeals from the decisions of an Assistant Sessions Judge are heard by the District Judge.

The following is the distribution of the Judicial Magistrates and Munsif-Magistrates in the district in 1961 :—

Number of Magistrates.	Powers.	Place of posting.
One (Judicial)	First Class	Laheriasarai.
One (Judicial)	Second Class	Ditto.
Two (Munsifs)	Ditto	Ditto.
One (Honorary)	Ditto	Ditto.

Number of Magistrates.	Powers.	Place of posting.
One (Munsif) ..	.. First Class	.. Samastipur.
One (Munsif) ..	.. Second Class	.. Ditto.
One (Honorary)	.. First Class	.. Ditto.
One (Judicial) ..	.. Ditto	.. Madhubani.
One (Judicial) ..	.. Second Class	.. Ditto.
Two (Munsifs) ..	.. Ditto	.. Ditto.

Panchayat Courts have been described elsewhere. The *Panchayat* Courts have been given certain statutory powers for disposing of petty criminal cases. The bench and the parties in such cases all come from same locality and lawyers are a taboo. The main idea is that there will be a compromise failing which there will be speedy disposal of the case costing very little to the parties concerned.

But it has to be mentioned here that there is no statutory obligation of the villager that he has got to take his case to the *Panchayat* Courts. He may go to the police or to the Magistrate with a complaint as well.

The role of the lawyers in helping the Courts to come to a correct decision must be mentioned. The lawyers on either side work on the same purpose, that is, to have justice done according to law although seemingly they are at cross purposes. An able lawyer interpretes the facts elicited in the evidence for the benefit of his client and he will never try to mislead the Court. The bar in this district has been covered elsewhere.

Jury and Assessor system.--Mention has to be made of jury and assessor system so far as criminal justice is concerned. The names of respectable persons were empanelled as jurors and assessors and odd number of them were used to be called up and associated with sessions trials. Under the assessor system the considered majority opinion of the assessors was not binding on Sessions Judge and he would deliver his own judgement absolutely contradictory to the opinion of the assessors. It was, however, the duty of the Judge to explain the law and the facts of the case as transpired from the examination-in-chief and cross examination and leave the assessors to come to their opinion.

In a jury system the procedure was the same but the majority opinion of the jurors had statutory obligation on the Sessions Judge. The Sessions Judge would either give his judgement accepting the majority opinion of the jury and pass the sentence or he would differ from the majority opinion of the jury giving his reasons and refer the case to his higher Court.

It is unfortunate that the jury and the assessor system did not work well. It was difficult to get always the proper type of men as jurors or assessors and their opinions were often perverse. Allegations of corruption against them were common. The jury system was in vogue in Darbhanga district till 30th April 196[illegible] and now stands abolished.

The statistics of sessions cases from 1939 to 1960 are give[illegible] below :—

Statistics of Sessions cases from 1939 to 1960 of Darbhanga Judg[illegible]

Year.	No. of Sessions cases pending from before.	Instituted.	Total.	Disposed of—	No. of persons. Acquitted.	No. of persons. Convicted.	[illegible] witnesses examined.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1939	12	58	70	41	101	86	782
1940	29	73	102	72	164	136	343
1941	30	65	95	69	133	149	1,030
1942	26	52	78	54	158	122	916
1943	24	104	128	64	161	164	806
1944	64	96	160	118	370	200	1,445
1945	42	76	118	95	325	146	1,216
1946	23	74	97	81	229	123	903
1947	16	79	95	50	155	109	607
1948	45	79	124	113	648	198	1,464
1949	11	93	104	93	394	185	1,071
1950	11	83	94	67	382	69	863
1951	27	88	115	73	351	99	1,040
1952	42	108	150	102	341	177	1,404
1953	48	112	160	135	729	170	1,946
1954	25	66	91	61	266	74	573
1955	30	78	108	86	205	169	1,219
1956	22	89	111	82	293	163	1,243
1957	27	78	107	76	234	137	993
1958	31	135	166	103	359	132	1,429
1959	63	109	172	123	470	207	2,288
1960	49	110	159	131	401	191	1,950

From the above statistics it appears that the number of cases fluctuates every year. But a high incidence of crimes was recorded in the years 1943, 1944, 1949, 1952, 1953, 1958, 1959 and 1960. From the statistics it also appears that the number of persons acquitted is much higher than those convicted.

The break-up figures of important sessions cases from 1939 to 1960 are given below :—

The statistics of sessions cases under some of the different sections of the Penal Code in Darbhanga Judgeship from 1939 to 1960 are as follows :—

Year.	Section 302 (murder).	Section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to (murder).	Sections 363, 364, 366 and 369.	Section 376.	Sections 395 and 396.	Sections 399 and 402.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1939	10	10	2	2	9	Nil.
1940	18	9	5	Nil	5	2
1941	13	8	5	3	13	Nil.
1942	10	8	2	5	13	Nil.
1943	13	21	Nil	3	45	Nil.
1944	16	11	3	2	44	Nil.
1945	16	3	1	4	31	1
1946	17	7	2	3	18	1
1947	21	6	2	1	24	Nil.
1948	20	3	3	5	28	2
1949	18	9	6	1	31	Nil.
1950	19	8	1	2	20	2
1951	22	6	4	Nil	27	2
1952	18	3	6	2	25	3
1953	31	10	7	5	27	2
1954	10	6	2	2	25	2
1955	20	7	5	3	19	1
1956	20	12	3	Nil	23	2
1957	20	11	3	2	22	Nil.
1958	23	10	4	4	30	2
1959	21	2	10	5	34	2
1960	17	8	13	2	21	5

From the perusal of the statistics above it appears that the incidence of murder cases is somewhat high in the district. The figures also show that the incidence of dacoity is also high in the district.

The statistics of criminal cases from 1957 to 1930 tried in the Magisterial Courts are given below :—

Year.	Pending from before.	Received.	Total.	Disposed of.	No. of persons. Acquitted.	Convicted.	No. of witnesses examined
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1957 ..	1,491	2,399	3,890	1,783	5,240	1,079	5,503
1958 ..	2,107	2,394	4,501	2,494	12,050	2,506	17,464
1959 ..	2,179	4,278	6,457	4,370	12,066	2,664	15.800
1960 ..	2,150	3,720	5,870	4,085	11,544	2,826	16,006

From the above statistics it appears that the number of cases fluctuates every year. But a high incidence of crimes was recorded in the years 1959 and 1960. From the statistics it also appears that the number of persons acquitted is much higher than those convicted. The incidence of crimes is mostly due to the economic reasons as discussed in the sub-section 'Incidence of Crime'.

Administration of Civil Justice.—Until 1906 Darbhanga was under the Judgeship of Muzaffarpur. The Civil work of the district used to be carried on till then by eight Munsifs of whom three were stationed at Laheriasarai (Darbhanga), three at Samastipur and two at Madhubani*. There was no Sub-Judge in this district. The District and Sessions Judge of Muzaffarpur came periodically to dispose of Sessions cases and other business. He held his court in one of the rooms of the Collectorate at Laheriasarai (Darbhanga).

In 1906 a judgeship was created for Darbhanga district and S. S. Skinner, Esqr. was appointed District Judge to this judgeship in that year. A separate building for the Civil Courts was built in the year 1909. The Civil Court building was a two storied one, but the terminable Earthquake of 1934 caused considerable damage to the upper floor of the building which was therefore dismantled. In 1937 a new building was constructed and was connected with the old block by a corridor.

*District Gazetteer, Darbhanga (1907), p. 127.

At Samastipur the pre-earthquake building still stands and the courts are held there. In both Madhubani and Samastipur there is a great dearth of accommodation in the Civil Court building. The Courts of temporary Sub-Judge and Additional Sub-Judge at Samastipur are being held at present in the Bar Association building. Hence a new building for the Sub-Judge's Courts is under contemplation. At Madhubani a new Civil Court building was constructed after the great Earthquake of 1934, as the old building was completely damaged.

At present (1961) Civil justice is administered by a District Judge, one Additional District Judge and seven permanent, one temporary and three Additional Subordinate Civil Courts. The Hon'ble High Court deputes Additional Courts whenever there is a congestion in the files.

The Subordinate Civil Courts in the district comprise of the courts of one permanent Sub-Judge, two Additional Sub Judges and two Munsifs at the headquarters, one temporary Sub-judge and two Munsifs in Samastipur subdivision and two Munsifs in Madhubani subdivision. Besides these a temporary court of Sub Judge is functioning at Samastipur since January, 1957.

The District Judge and the Additional District Judge have powers to try suits and hear appeals, but generally they do not try suits except those of special nature. Recently their appellate powers in the civil side have been raised up to the value of Rs. 10,000 by an amendment of Civil Procedure Code. Besides civil powers the District Judge and the Additional District Judge have the powers of a Sessions Judge also. The District Judge is also vested with the powers of a Magistrate First Class and also of an Additional District Magistrate. He is empowered to inspect all the Criminal Courts and offices in the district except that of the District Magistrate.

The Sub-Judge posted at Sadar has unlimited pecuniary jurisdiction on original civil side regarding cases of both the Sadar and Madhubani subdivisions. He is vested with the powers of Small Cause Court Judge to try suits up to the value of Rs. 750 within the jurisdiction of Sadar subdivision. Similarly the Sub-Judge at Samastipur also has unlimited pecuniary jurisdiction on the civil side and is vested with powers of a Small Cause Court Judge to try suits up to the value of Rs. 750 within the jurisdiction of Samastipur subdivision. The Sub-Judges are empowered to hear civil appeals decided by the Munsifs and those who function as Assistant Sessions Judges have been empowered to hear criminal appeals against the decision of Second and Third Class Magistrates.

The Munsifs are vested with the powers in the original side as well as that of a Small Cause Court Judge within their respective

jurisdiction. Their powers on the original sides do not exceed Rs. 5,000 and that of as a Small Cause Court Judge they are limited to Rs. 350.

The Registrar system was introduced in the district in October, 1957 on a temporary basis and its terms have recently been further extended for a further period of two years since 1st August 1961. A Munsif of experience is always appointed to this post and the system has been working successfully in this judgeship. The Registrar looks after the day-to-day administration and works as a link between the litigants and Courts. He helps the District Judge in his administration of the departments. The Registrar is also the Judge incharge of Nazarat, Accounts, Forms, Stationery, Record Room and Copying Departments.

The scheme of separation of executive and judicial functions is in operation in this Judgeship since 1st July 1957. The powers, number and place of posting of Judicial Magistrate and Munsif Magistrates have already been dealt in criminal justice.

Since after the separation scheme, the Judicial Magistrates have come under the administrative control of the District and Sessions Judge, but provision for their staff, Court rooms, furniture, law books, forms and stationery is made by the District Magistrate. The District Magistrate deputes bench clerks for the Court of the Judicial Magistrates. Copies relating to the Courts of Judicial Magistrates are also prepared in the Collectorate copying department.

The two tables of civil suits and cases are given below. Table no. 1 shows the total number of civil suits and cases instituted under different heads yearwise from 1950 to 1960. Table no. 2 shows the details of civil suits, cases and appeals under different heads yearwise from 1950 to 1960.

TABLE No. 1.

CIVIL SUITS AND CASES.

Years.	Title suits.	Money suits.	Rent suits.	Small Cause Court suits.	Miscellaneous Judicial cases.	Execution cases.	Title appeals.	Money appeals.	Rent appeals.	Miscellaneous appeals.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1950	1,654	1,512	4,935	737	1,843	4,279	293	45	76	169
1951	1,351	1,576	5,037	791	1,426	3,766	261	35	57	132
1952	1,206	1,790	7,049	935	1,280	3,069	273	39	52	93
1953	1,153	1,944	6,197	973	1,352	3,889	411	75	60	148
1954	1,107	1,736	6,330	845	1,662	3,444	341	76	45	138
1955	992	1,754	3,026	857	6,012	4,358	326	73	21	136
1956 .. .	1,085	1,845	2,161	707	1,484	4,429	254	78	20	144
1957	1,020	1,840	1,325	1,091	1,645	4,449	191	63	5	128
1958	994	1,917	652	1,232	1,701	3,097	242	55	3	116
1959	1,125	1,565	13	904	1,649	2,382	224	42	1	123
1960	1,215	1,558	3	864	1,514	1,742	267	75	2	135

TABLE No. 2

Civil Suits Cases and Appeals.

Year.	Civil suits.				Civil regular appeals including rent appeals.				Rent appeals.			
	Last pending.	Insti-tuted.	Total.	Disposed of.	Last pending.	Insti-tuted.	Total.	Disposed of.	Last pending.	Insti-tuted.	Total.	Disposed of.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1950	5,413	8,101	13,514	8,111	334	414	748	381	45	76	121	83
1951	5,647	7,964	13,611	7,827	337	353	690	349	38	57	95	49
1952	5,998	10,045	16,043	9,395	330	364	754	373	47	52	99	52
1953	6,841	9,294	16,135	10,277	383	546	929	390	47	60	117	48
1954	6,055	9,223	15,278	10,592	540	462	1,002	335	59	45	104	64
1955	4,943	5,772	10,715	7,500	676	420	1,096	480	42	21	63	52
1956	3,461	5,091	8,552	5,453	622	352	974	598	12	20	32	26
1957	3,276	4,185	7,461	4,502	391	259	650	332	6	5	11	10
1958	3,117	3,563	6,680	3,998	333	300	633	325	1	3	4	4
1959	2,847	2,707	5,554	3,083	328	267	595	312	..	1	1	1
1960	2,582	2,776	5,358	2,919	298	344	642	270	..	2	2	—

TABLE No. 2—*concld.*

Year.	Miscellaneous appeals. Last pending.	Insti-tuted.	Total.	Disposed of.	Miscellaneous cases. Last pending.	Insti-tuted.	Total.	Disposed of.	Execution cases. Last pending.	Insti-tuted.	Total.	Disposed of.
1	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1950	98	169	267	173	758	1,843	2,601	1,750	2,659	4,279	6,628	
1951	96	132	231	132	3,706	1,424	2,304	1,512	2,625	6,786	6,304	3,904
1952	99	93	192	109	3,211	1,260	2,301	1,343	2,533	3,069	5,602	3,635
1953	84	148	232	106	770	1,352	2,122	1,553	2,301	3,889	6,190	3,542
1954	122	138	260	132	587	1,662	7,249	1,507	2,694	3,444	6,138	3,642
1955	126	136	262	165	769	6,012	6,781	2,310	3,351	4,358	7,700	3,794
1956	97	144	221	174	755	1,484	2,239	1,497	3,150	4,429	7,579	4,447
1957	64	128	192	107	733	1,645	2,378	1,451	3,189	4,449	7,638	4,205
1958	85	116	201	119	963	1,701	2,664	1,530	3,485	3,097	6,582	4,129
1959	83	123	206	129	1,155	1,649	1,804	1,628	2,502	2,382	4,884	2,978
1960	81	135	216	141	1,206	1,514	2,720	1,885	1,956	1,742	3,698	2,157

Civil Court Record Room.

The Record Room was started in 1906 when the separation of this Judgeship from Muzaffarpur district was made.

The Record room has got many old records. The oldest record is of the year 1780, and relates to Money Title Suit no. 1 of 1780 (Lachmen Mander *versus* Raghu Purbay).

The records of the following nature are preserved here :—

(1) Class I—Title suits and Title appeals (Preserved for ever).

(2) Class II—Mortagage suits and appeals (Preserved for 25 years).

(3) Class III—Money suits and appeals (Preserved for 12 years).

(4) Class III A.—Rent suits and appeals (Preserved for 6 years).

(5) Sessions Cases —

(*i*) Class I—14 years.

(*ii*) Class II—5 years.

(*iii*) Class III—2 years.

(*iv*) Class IV— 1 year.

Panchayat Adalats.

The details of the working of *Gram Panchayats* will be found in Chapter under Local Self-Government. It may, however, be repeated here that the *Gram Panchayats* were established to bring the disposal of justice to the litigants as near their doors as possible and at the cheapest possible cost and to bring about as many compromises as possible. Lawyers are not normally allowed and the Judges consists of the co-villagers who are commissioned to bring about as many compromises as possible. According to recent amendment, lawyers are allowed in some cases. The Bihar Panchayat Raj Amendment and Validating Act, 1959, section 71 runs as follows :—

> "No legal practitioner or person declared or known to the Gram Kutchery to be a tout shall appear, plead or act on behalf of any party in any suit or case before the benches thereof. Provided that a person who is arrested shall have the right to consult and to be defended by a legal practitioner of his choice."

It was thought that the witnesses would be less inclined to depose incorrectly in a *Panchayat* Court. It was also expected that the proper functioning of the *Panchayat* courts would ease the congestion of cases in the Court of Magistrates. These aims have not been fulfilled. On the other hand it has been found that the elections of *Mukhiya*, members of the *Panchayat* and the *Sarpanch* are always preceded or followed by tension.

The *Gram Kutchery*, the judiciary of the *Gram Panchayat* is headed by the *Sarpanch* who is elected by adult suffrage. The *Gram Kutchery* is vested with the powers of a third Class Magistrate. It is also vested with the civil powers to dispose of petty suits. Regarding the criminal powers of a bench of the *Gram Kutchery*, the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, section 63 runs as follows :—

"A bench of the *Gram Kutchery* shall, in respect of the trial of cases, be deemed to be vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class."

The *Surpanch* has certain emergency powers in case of apprehension of breach of peace (*vide* section 64 of Bihar Gram Panchyat Act). In trial of cases he is assisted by a penal of *panches* consisting of five *panches* including himself. One *panch* each nominated by the contestants and two other *panches* selected by him. They all derive their powers under a Statutory Act. The *Gram Sevak*, a paid employee of the *Gram Panchayat*, acts as a bench clerk. So far as the administration of justice is concerned, these courts are under the general supervision of the District Judge and the Munsif of competent jurisdiction in respect of civil cases and the Subdivisional Officer in respect of criminal cases. The statement below gives the statistics of the working of the *Gram Kutcheries* from 1955-56 to 1960-61 :—

Statement showing the position of cases and suits tried by *Gram Kutcheries* in the district of Darbhanga from 1955-56 to 1960-61.

Year.	Number of notified *Gram Panchayat*.	Number of *Gram Kutchery*.	Number of cases and suits instituted.		Number of cases and suits disposed of		Number of cases and suits compromised.	
			Cases.	Suits.	Cases.	Suits.	Cases.	Suits.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1955-56 ..	760	225	1,991	541	434	109	1,310(66%)	363(67%)
1956-57 ..	760	316	2,865	587	652	138	1,868(66%)	309(53%)
1957-58 ..	760	412	2,248	480	508	117	1,395(62%)	287(60%)
1958-59 ..	778	462	3,098	449	595	120	9,189(71%)	261(58%)
1959-60 ..	778	499	2,894	400	558	125	1,869(65%)	268(58%)
1960-61 ..	838	499	1,415	188	53	65	967(68%)	108(57%)

The statement shows that quite a large percentage of criminal cases and civil suits have been compromised every year. The percentage calculation has been shown within the brackets in the columns 8 and 9. The percentage of compromises in civil suits is, however, not as high as in criminal cases. The highest level in civil suits was at 67 per cent in 1955-56 while the highest percentage in criminal cases was 71 per cent in 1958-59. The percentage of compromises of criminal cases and civil suits in 1960-61 was 68 per cent and 57 per cent respectively.

Legal Profession and Bar Association.

The legal profession consists of Barristers, Advocates, Pleaders and Mukhtears. At present there is no Barrister in the district. There are 23 Advocates at Darbhanga, 4 at Samastipur and 3 at Madhubani. The number of Pleaders at Darbhanga is 174, at Samastipur 83 and at Madhubani 56. There are 41 Mukhtears at Darbhanga, 39 at Samastipur and 31 at Madhubani. The number of Mukhtear is dwindling due to the abolition of Mukhtearship examination.

The Bar Association and Mukhtear Association at the headquarters and at the Subdivisional headquarters of Samastipur and Madhubani have their own buildings and the libraries. The Associations look after the interest of their members and maintain a dignified and helpful relationship with bench.

The State Government have also appointed a separate class of Police Officers who are known as District Prosecutors and Assistant District Prosecutors. They conduct criminal cases on behalf of the State in Magisterial Courts.

Darbhanga has produced some brilliant members of the bar. Some of the members of the Darbhanga Bar have been raised to the bench. The golden jubilee of one of the Advocates Sri Priya Nath Mitra was celebrated in 1960.

The members of the Bar at Darbhanga and at the subdivisions have taken a very prominent part in moulding the civic and cultural life of the district. Some of them have sponsored educational institutions and worked the local bodies. Some of them have taken a prominent part in the struggle for independence. Since Gandhiji launched his first campaign in India in connection with the indigo movement in Champaran district some prominent members of the Darbhanga Bar, namely, Sri Braj Kishore Prasad, Dharnidhar, Harinandan Das, Mohammad Shafi, etc., have taken a prominent part in the political field.

CHAPTER XII

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

History of Local Self-Government

The main Local Self-Government Institutions within the district are the District Boards, Municipalities and *Gram Panchayats.* A short history of these institutions has been given separately. It may be mentioned here that Darbhanga Municipality was established on 1st November 1864 and it claims to be the oldest Local Self-Government unit in the district. Madhubani and Rusera Municipalities were constituted in 1869 while Samastipur Municipality had followed in 1879. The District Board was established in April, 1887 under the Bengal Act III of 1885, vide Bengal Government notification, dated 1st April 1887. The two Local Boards one at Madhubani and the other at Samastipur were also constituted in 1887.

The last *District Gazetteer of Darbhanga* by O' Malley (1907) mentions that "There was formerly a Sadar Local Board for the headquarters subdivision which was abolished some years ago, and the functions it discharged were transferred to the District Board". However, again in April, 1917, a Local Board for Sadar Subdivision was created vide Government notification no. 6020-M, dated 21st April 1917.

The Local Boards were given allotment of funds by the District Boards and have in their charge the maintenance of village roads, pounds, water-supply and sanitation. The powers and functions of the Local Boards have been much reduced due to the creation of the District Education Fund under the District Superintendent of Education. A portion of the duty of the District Board has also been taken away by the State Government for education and public health. The recent expansion of the *Gram Panchayats* and Block Development Projects have also considerably encroached upon the major duties and obligations of the District and Local Boards.

The election system was introduced in the District under the Bihar and Orissa (Amendment) Act I of 1923. The voters, however, had to qualify themselves by professional or property requirements. The adult franchise in the electoral system was introduced only with the enforcement of the Republican Constitution of India in 1950.

A very significant and forward step was taken to foster the spirit of Local Self-Government in 1947, when the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act was passed. The Act was implemented in the district of Darbhanga in 1949 and till 1st April 1962, as many as 739 *Gram Panchayats* have been established.

In pursuance of Government notification no. 800-L.S.G., dated 12th September 1958, the executives and members of the District and Local Boards of the State ceased to function and the work of these institutions was taken over by the State Government. In pursuance of this order, the Darbhanga District Board, Local Boards at Sadar subdivision, Madhubani and Samastipur were taken over by the Bihar Government on the 15th September 1958. There is now a Special Officer who is incharge of the District Board in place of the elected executives and the members of the Board.

Municipalities.—The district has four Municipalities, namely, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Rusera and Samastipur.

Darbhanga Municipality.—The Darbhanga Municipality is the oldest Municipality in the district. Its area in 1864 when it was constituted was 7 sq. miles and it remains almost the same uptill now, which means no expansion during the 98 years of the life of the Municipality. Originally, the area of the Municipality was divided into 7 wards only while now it consists of 32 wards. In the beginning the Municipality was administered by a Municipal Board consisting of 22 Ward Commissioners of whom 14 were elected, 4 were nominated and 4 were *ex-officio* members. Now the number of Ward Commissioners has increased from 22 to 40, of whom 32 are elected and 8 are nominated. The number of rate payers as mentioned in the *District Gazetteer of Darbhanga* by L.S.S. O'Malley (1907) was 9,785 or 14.7 per cent of the population, while the present number of rate payers is 13,872 or 16.22 per cent of the population. The population of the town in 1901 was 66,244 and now according to the Census of 1961 it is 103,016, the net variation during the last sixty years being 36,772.

The District Magistrate used to be the *ex-officio* Chairman of the Municipality. The first elected Chairman of this Municipality was Shri Aditya Prasad Sinha who was elected on 25th January 1910. The last general election of the Municipality was held in 1958. The person who was elected as the Chairman in 1959 is continuing his office at present (1962).

The Municipality has passed through many vicissitudes. In 1934 the Municipality office buildings were badly damaged in the Earthquake of 1934 and some papers and registers were also lost. At that time the Municipality office was located at Laheriasarai. The present Municipal office at Darbhanga was constructed in 1938. It was opened by Hon'ble Maharajadhiraj Kameshwar Singh Bahadur, K.C.I.E., on the 23rd January 1938. The cost of construction was partly met from the Viceroy's Earthquake Reconstruction Fund and partly by a donation of rupees ten thousand from the Darbhanga Raj.

Functions.

Education.—The Municipality is entrusted with the primary education of the children of this town. In the beginning there were only a few upper primary and lower primary schools in different parts of the town. The number of schools gradually increased and by the end of 1938 there were 42 schools maintained by the Municipality and the number of students attending them was 2,548 and 83 teachers were employed therein. Free and compulsory education system was introduced into the municipal schools in September, 1939. In 1962 the Municipality maintains 7 Middle Schools, 32 Upper Primary and 7 Lower Primary Schools for boys and 2 Middle Schools, 9 Upper Primary Schools and 2 Lower Primary Schools for girls, the total number of schools being 59. In addition to these schools, the Municipality also runs 2 Upper Primary and 19 Lower Primary Schools for boys and one Upper Primary School and 10 Lower Primary Schools for girls under Expansion and Improvement of Primary Education Scheme The expenditure over the schools under E.I.P. Scheme is met by the State Government. Besides, there is one Middle School for boys and one night Lower Primary School which receive aid from the Municipality. The total number of boys and girls attending Municipal institutions is 5,791 and 2,094 respectively. The total number of teachers employed in the Municipal schools is 360 and that of mistresses is 32. The total expenditure over education for the following three years is given below :—

Year.			Rs.
1958-59	..	..	2,21,217.87
1959-60	..	..	2,77,412.27
1960-61	..	..	3,33,158.00

The above figures show that a considerable amount of money is spent over education and every year the expenditure is increasing.

Water-supply.—The supply of piped water for the municipal area of Darbhanga town has been in existence since 1960. The source of water supply is water towers and tube-wells. There are two water towers which have been recently constructed. Prior to this arrangement, water-supply was done through 300 tube-wells and 370 stand-posts. The scheme for the installation of piped water was taken up by the Municipality in the year 1955-56, at the estimated cost of Rs. 18,57,000 on the basis of 50 per cent loan and 50 per cent grant from the Government. Water tax has been levied at the rate of 10 per cent on the annual value of the holding. The number of stand-posts is very inadequate and it cannot give adequate supply in spite of private

hand pumps, wells and tanks. Up to 31st March 1962, 621 applications for the supply of piped water were received in the municipal office, out of which 540 applicants have got sanction and the remaining applications are pending with the Public Health Engineering Department, Darbhanga. The number of stand-posts is very inadequate and at least 200 more stand-posts as suggested in the report of Darbhanga Town Planning and Development Committee are required for the areas where water mains have already been provided and at least 300 stand-posts in those areas where the piped lines can be extended. As most of the houses in the town are *kachcha*, the risk of fire is great and in case of an outbreak of fire the inadequacy of water is a handicap. Recently, a small unit of Fire Service at Laheriasarai has been opened for fire fighting. It is run by the Home Guards but their work is handicapped.

Sanitation.—The *District Gazetteer of Darbhanga* by L.S.S. O' Malley (1907) mentions "In Darbhanga the former Municipal Outdoor Dispensary has been converted into an important indoor hospital, a lady doctor has been entertained, and a veterinary dispensary has been established. A complete drainage scheme costing nearly two lacs has been prepared, and is gradually being carried out; and the sanitation of the town has been considerably increased". But the present position is quite different. There is no hospital or dispensary managed by the municipality. Regarding the hospital and dispensary as mentioned in the old District Gazetteer. attempts were made to trace out as to how and when they changed hands. But in absence of any record, no conclusion could be reached. However, at present, there is one Medical Officer of Health, one Sanitary Inspector, one Health Inspector, one Slaughter House Inspector and two permanent vaccinators. Their main function is to take preventive measures such as disinfection of wells, vaccination and inoculation, when the town is threatened with any epidemic. There are two trained *dais* to attend the delivery cases. The usual epidemic is small-pox which is said to have affected the town at every seven years for the last 21 years. There were outbreaks of small-pox in 1944, 1951 and 1958. In 1961 the town was attacked by cholera which caused death of 37 persons. In the year 1961, 3,625 persons were inoculated in the municipal area. The step was taken as a precautionary measure against the outbreak of cholera.

The number of sweepers and other conservancy staff is 485. The night-soil is collected from the latrines by the sweepresses in buckets and is taken to the night-soil depot. This method of disposal of night-soil is very primitive and anti-social. The night-soil trailers are taken to the trenching ground by the help of tractor. There are 8 trailers, 2 tractors, 2 carts drawn by the buffaloes and 2 night-soil depots. The number of sweepresses employed for the disposal of night-soil is 362. The collection of

refuse and garbage from small lanes and bye-lanes is done by means of wheel barrows and carts. They are used in filling the low lying areas and also in preparing compost. In the town there are a few public latrines but they are all service privies and so it is difficult to keep them clean always which is very necessary from the sanitary point of view. In absence of public latrines and urinals the local residents commit nuisance on the side of the public roads causing a lot of inconveniences to the passers-by. The sanitary arrangements in the town cannot be said to be adequate.

Roads.—In 1962 the total road mileage within the limits of the Municipality is 88.52 miles out of which 64.26 miles are metalled road and 24.26 miles are *kuchcha* roads. The expenditure over the construction and improvement of the municipal roads for the following six years is given below :—

Years.			Rs.
1955-56	..	..	40,889.00
1956-57	..	..	60,904.00
1957-58	..	..	81,986.00
1958-59	.	..	54,141.00
1959-60	.	..	72,822.00
1960-61	..	..	1,94,599.00

The condition of the roads is not satisfactory. They require thorough improvement to cope with the heavy traffic of the day. The bad condition of the road is mainly due to the traffic by heavy trucks and buses. After the construction of the Rajendra Bridge at Mokamah which connects Darbhanga with South Bihar by road, the rush of heavy vehicles in the town has been increasing which is mainly responsible for the damages of the roads and culverts. One of the main reasons of bad maintenance of road is the dearth of road building materials in this town. Unless the roads and culverts are reconstructed properly, it will be immensely difficult to put up good communication.

Municipal Markets.—Prior to 1950 there were two municipal markets, one Oval Market at Darbhanga and the other Rajendra Market at Laheriasarai. The building of the Oval Market was constructed by the Town Improvement Trust and it was purchased by the Darbhanga Municipality for Rs. 1,20,000. A portion of the building was used for market purpose and some portions of it were let out to the C.M. College at monthly rent of Rs. 80 in the year 1940. In 1941-42 the C.M. College occupied a few more stalls and the rent was increased from 80 to Rs. 307. Since 1941-42 the C.M. College had been paying to the municipality the above mentioned rent till September, 1949 when the whole market (consisting of 102 stalls) excluding 8 stalls was leased out to the C.M. College at Rs. 5 per annum for 99 years. The municipality

realises rent from the remaining 8 stalls which amounts to Rs.329 per month. Now the Municipality has only one market, *i.e.*, Rajendra Market at Laheriasarai. The Oval Market was an asset of the Municipality as well as good source of income. The Municipality has obviously become poorer by leasing out this market. Municipal Market at Laheriasarai is not too clean and is much congested. Fish, vegetables and other food stuff are commonly sold on the roadside in rather insanitary condition. The Municipality realises tax for such sales but often there is a leakage.

Slaughter House.—There are three slaughter houses of the Municipality two for goats and one for cattle. The slaughter houses for goats are located at Jatiahi and Jianganj and the slaughter house for cattle is situated at Maheshpatti. In addition to these municipal slaughter houses, there are two private slaughter houses for goats. The slaughter houses for goats maintained by the municipality have cemented floors and the municipal coolies wash them every day and keep them clean. But the cattle slaughter house has *katcha* floor and the sanitary condition is very unsatisfactory. The blood and offals are disposed of by the municipal coolies and they deposit them around the night-soil depot. The municipality does not make utility of blood and offals. However, some neighbouring persons sometimes take them to their fields for manuring purpose. Meat is distributed among the owners or sharers of the goats who again sell it in the market. The hides are sold to the owners of hides' godowns. The principal hide godowns are at Urdu Bazar, Maharajganj, Shibdhara and Kaidrabad. They transport hides mostly to Calcutta and Kanpur and rarely to Sakri where recently a tanning centre has been opened. A statement showing the number of goats and cattle slaughtered for the last three years is given below :—

Year.	Cow.	Oxen.	He-buffaloes.	She-buffaloes.	He-goats.	She-goats.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1959-60 ..	2,202	4,523	378	680	13,375	12,396
1960-61 ..	262	3,776	413	1,064	15,339	13,737
1961-62 ..	521	5,865	..	1,872	17,528	15,866

The number of cows slaughtered in 1960-61 shows a great fall. The reason is that according to the directives of the Government restrictions have been imposed in 1960-61 according to which now only invalid and old cows are to be slaughtered.

Electrification.—In 1938 the scheme of electrification of the street lights was taken up. Till 1951-52 there were 513 electrified street lights in this municipality. The number has increased to

586 in 1961. On some of the important roads and lanes of the town there is no electric main as yet. This is due to non-availability of electric energy with the Supply Corporation. For the improvement of the town, the extension of electric mains is very necessary. The Darbhanga Electric Supply Co. is a private firm and has not been able to cope with the increased demand for electricity.

Burning Ghat.—There is no Municipal Burning *ghat* anywhere in the town. At present, the dead bodies are cremated on private lands and so their registration as provided in the Municipal Act is difficult. These lands are situated on the outskirts of the town where there is no satisfactory approach road. Moreover, there is no provision of shelter for the people who go there with the bodies.

Fuel is always available in the burning *ghats*. There are two burial grounds for the Christians—one at Mohalla Bela near Raja Bahadur's Sipoy Colony and the other on the eastern bank of Dighi Tank. They are not managed by the Municipality.

There are four municipal burial grounds for the Mohammadans located at Alinagar, Karamganj, Kajipur and Sarai Sattar Khan. There are also private burial grounds situated at Mirzakhan Tank, Raham Khan, Fazulla Khan and Lal Bag. Generally in every big Mohalla of Muslim community there is one burial ground managed by the Mohalla people.

Parks.—There was formerly one park opposite to Northbrook Zilla School which was acquired about ten years' back for the extension of D.M.C. Hospital. Since then there is no park where any public function or meeting can be held. The town with an area of 7½ sq. miles and a population of over one lakh is in great need of a big park.

Drainage and Sewerage.—There is no underground drainage system in the town. Accumulation of water at places becomes a breeding ground for the mosquitoes. Without a proper sewerage system the sanitation of the place cannot be improved. The preparation of drainage scheme for the town has been taken up by the Government and a Survey Party has prepared the scheme. It is not known when the drainage scheme will be properly executed.

Town Hall.—The old Victoria Memorial Town Hall at Laheriasarai built by the Late Rai Bahadur Ganga Prasad Singh was

completely wrecked by the devastating Bihar Earthquake on 15th January 1934. It was decided at the instance of the then Chairman Babu Madhusudan Prasad Sinha to rebuild the Town Hall at Darbhanga in the Trust area. The proposal was approved by the Government and it sanctioned a grant of Rs. 66,000 out of the Viceroy's Earthquake Relief Fund for the construction of the Town Hall. This Hall was constructed during the Chairmanship of Kumar Kalyan Lal. The foundation stone of the building was laid down by the Governor of Bihar on the 17th February 1938 and it was opened by Sri Anugrah Narayan Sinha, ex-Finance Minister of Bihar, on 2nd November 1938. A fountain was later on constructed in front of the Town Hall in the memory of Late Babu Madhusudan Prasad Sinha, ex-Chairman of Darbhanga Municipality.

Income and Expenditure.—The main sources of income are from holding tax, latrine tax, water tax, municipal registration fees and rent of land and market. The holding tax is imposed upon the building situated within the municipal area. The average annual income from them is as follows :—

		Rs.
(1) Holding tax	.. ..	1,92,875
(2) Latrine tax	.. ..	1,41,600
(3) Registration fees	..	54,795
(4) Market	.. ..	16,028
(5) Rent of land	.. ..	23,028
(6) Water tax	.. ..	1,92,875

At present, the income from water tax is transferred to the account of the State Government in payment of the loan taken by the municipality for the execution of the scheme of piped water-supply. The modes of assessments in vogue are as follows:—

(1) Holding tax at the rate of 10 per cent on the annual valuation of the holding.
(2) Water tax at the rate of 10 per cent on the annual valuation of the holding.
(3) Latrine tax at the rate of 7½ per cent on the annual valuation of the holding.

License fees for—		Rs.
(*a*) Rickshaw ..	..	5
(*b*) Tanga ..	..	6
(*c*) Cycle ..	..	4
(*d*) Ordinary cart	..	8
(*e*) Special cart	..	6
Driver's License fees for—		
(*f*) Rickshaw driving	..	3
(*g*) Tanga driving	..	3

The number of licensed rickshaw, tanga, cycle, ordinary cart, and special cart is 2,289, 269, 6,100, 1,352, 1,603 respectively for the year 1961-62.

The incidence of taxation per head of the population was Rs. 3.91 nP. in 1959-60 while in 1905-1906 the incidence of taxation as mentioned in the old *District Gazetteer of Darbhanga* was 10 annas and 7 pies per head of the population.

The average income during the five years 1895-96 to 1899-1900 was Rs. 51,960 and expenditure Rs. 37,870 while the income during the last five years 1955-56 to 1959-60 rose to Rs. 13,13,378 and expenditure Rs. 12,83,660. In 1905-06, the income was Rs. 68,000 and expenditure Rs. 55,700 while in 1960-61 the income amounted to Rs. 12,48,633 and expenditure Rs. 13,40,099 the variation being Rs. 11,80,633 and 12,84,399 respectively. The above figures indicate that during the last sixty years both the income and expenditure of the Municipality have increased above 25 times. The receipt under municipal taxes has swelled up chiefly because of increased trade and population, as well as due to the increase in the ratio of tax payers. Government grants have increased mainly to finance some of the projects taken up by the municipality, such as the construction of water towers. Under District Schemes included in the Bihar Second Five-Year Plan municipalities were to receive grants for improvement of their roads. A provision of Rs. 1.45 lakh was made for the improvement of municipal roads in the district of Darbhanga.

Main items of expenditure are over education, conservancy, water-supply, street lighting, public works and medical relief. The statement showing the receipts and expenditure of the municipality for the last 10 years from 1952-53 to 1961-62 is given below :—

DARBHANGA MUNICIPALITY.

EXPENDITURE (IN RUPEES).

Expenditure (Major heads).	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959-60.	1960-61.	1961-62.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. General administration and collection charge.	43,959	40,095	39,456	38,978	36,858	40,364	37,747	52,611	83,258	81,380
2. Public safety ..	27,062	23,376	18,258	36,567	22,031	29,855	21,805	31,032	36,959	44,258
3. Public Health ..	2,56,103	2,19,228	5,71,884	11,32 846	10,71,554	4,48,094	6,42,610	3,01,532	3,52,569	4,76,673
4. Medical	3,946	3,013	3,365	3,044	3,288	2,454	2,827	1,294	1,250	1,302
5. Public convenience ..	51,780	64,065	62,938	53,707	75,009	1,00,049	70,985	85,105	2,32,233	2,01,184
6. Public Instructions ..	1,46,217	1.27,890	1,59,573	1,62,799	1,83,726	2,03,668	2,24 350	2,90,465	3,43,714	3 68,827
7. Miscellaneous ..	18,949	14,254	16,963	10,761	24,469	17,802	35,190	22,784	28,811	33,768
8. Extraordinary debt ..	31.955	32,990	64,894	38,003	74,358	2.06,410	4,32,419	1,40,263	2,57,254	1,61,869
9. General contribution ..	5,181	550	400	Nil	Nil	1,854	250	500	4,050	4,000
TOTAL ..	6,25,152	5,56,061	9,37,731	14,82,705	14,91,293	10,50,550	14,68,163	9,25,591	13,40,099	13,93,261

DARBHANGA MUNICIPALITY.

INCOME (IN RUPEES).

Head of Accounts.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959-60.	1960-61.	1961-62.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. Municipal taxes ..	2,10,751	1,98,515	2,00,399	1,45,368	1,99,745	2,74,677	2,48,491	3,99,267	4,08,972	..
2. Municipal registration, license fees.	42,888	46,322	40,429	45,482	46,066	48,602	51,146	59,973	57,404	..
3. Realisation under special Acts.	1,076	1,245	1,174	205	195	174	1,542	403	Nil	..
4. Revenue derived from Municipal property.	43,737	33,199	37,830	45,207	39,290	39,616	76,375	62,142	33,599	..
5. Government grants and contributions.	2,13,584	2,30,035	4,44,380	7,10,876	7,51,251	4,03,756	5,25,860	4,01,858	4,85,506	..
6. Miscellaneous ..	8,706	7,825	11,138	16,561	11,293	9,836	11,490	16,591	25,516	..
7. Extraordinary and debt	29,242	34,198	2,01,304	5,11,734	5,16,875	3,03,562	4,33,118	1,30,795	2,37,634	..
TOTAL ..	5,54,024	5,51,339	9,36,655	14,75,433	15,92,185	10,80,223	13,48,022	10,71,029	12,48,633	..

From the statement of expenditure and income quoted, it appears that during the last ten years both income and expenditure have shown increasing trends. In 1952-53 the income amounted to Rs. 5,54,024 while in 1960-61 it was Rs. 12,48,633. This shows that the income of the municipality has doubled itself during the last ten years. Similar increase in expenditure is also noticeable. In 1952-53 the expenditure was up to the tune of Rs. 6,25,152 while in 1960-61 it was Rs. 13,40,099 about twice the amount of 1952-53. Thus, the increase in income and expenditure seems to be proportionate and balanced.

Financial Position.—The Audit Report No. 162 of 1957-58 (period audited 1956-57) mentions that there had been a further deterioration in the financial position of the municipality. On 31st March 1956, the net cash balance showed a deficit of Rs. 2,70,236 but by the end of the financial year of 1956-57 the minus balance amounted to Rs. 3,37,116. The main factor responsible for the unsatisfactory financial position was its defective budgeting. Thus the Board could not be in a position to wipe out its liabilities even its assets were collected in full. The major portion of assets relates to arrear taxes which is not capable of realisation in full. The percentage of arrear collection of taxes on arrear demand was 22.85 per cent in 1956-57. Again, the Audit Report No. 50 of 1960-61 (period audited 1957-58, 1958-59) indicates the same unsatisfactory financial position of the municipality and recommended the following suggestions for the improvement of the financial condition of the municipality:—

(1) Holding tax which is at present, *i.e.*, in 1962 at the rate of 10 per cent on the annual value may be increased to the maximum of Rs. 12½ per cent.

(2) Lighting tax as provided in section 82(*i*)(*a*) of the Municipal Act may be imposed.

(3) The feasibility of extending the limits of the municipality so as to include the contiguous areas of the town should be considered. Further, the Audit Report No. 191 of 1960-61 (period audited 1959-60) observes the same deteriorating financial condition. It mentions that under the rule 13 of the Municipal Accounts Rules, the municipality is required to maintain a minimum closing balance of Rs. 85,000 approximately, but the net closing balance of the municipality on 31st March, 1960 was (—) Rs. 2,06,616. The liabilities exceeded the assets by Rs. 2,47,624. The municipality has encroached upon Government grants, outstanding loans and deposits to the extent of Rs. 2,06,616 to meet its normal obligation in 1959-60.

The three Audit Reports mentioned above indicate the present unsatisfactory financial position of the municipality. The municipality has not as yet implemented any of the suggestions made in the Audit Report No. 50 of 1960-61. The only way to ameliorate the financial position of the municipality is to implement the suggestions made in the Audit Report mentioned above and to tap other sources of revenue curtailing the expenditure.

District Board, Darbhanga.—The main idea behind introducing District Board was to foster the spirit of Local Self-Government in the people. In pursuance of this policy the Bengal Act III was passed in 1885 and its provisions were extended to the district of Darbhanga in April, 1887. The Darbhanga District Board originally consisted of 25 members of whom 12 were elected by the Local Boards, 8 were nominated and 5 were *ex-officio* members *viz.*, the Civil Surgeon, the Senior Assistant Collector, the Road Cess Deputy Collector, the Deputy Inspector of Schools and the District Magistrate.

The District Magistrate used to be the *ex-officio* Chairman while the Vice-Chairman used to be elected from amongst the nominated members. It was found that though too much of official control was annoying, nevertheless it could not be said that the official Chairman was not useful. The District Officer's care at that early stage of the institution had its merits. But with more of education and spread of liberal ideas this system was found to be irksome The Montague-Chelmsford Report (1919) recommended that these self-governing bodies should be as representative as possible. It was felt necessary to remove the restrictions regarding the taxation and sanction of works. It also suggested to bring the franchise as wide as possible and to replace the nominated Chairman by an elected non-official member. Consequently, in 1919 the District Board got the right of electing a non-official Chairman among the nominted members. The Darbhanga District Board, as it appears from the records of the office, did not utilise this right and the District Magistrate continued to be the Chairman of the Board till June, 1924. The Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government Act, 1885, was amended in 1923. According to the amended Act, the Darbhanga District Board was reconstituted in July, 1924 with 24 elected and 8 nominated members. The Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government (Amendment) Act I of 1923 was definitely a landmark in the history of Local Self-Government, but it had some official control. One-fourth of the members of the District Board were to be nominated by the Government. The franchise being of a limited character kept out the bulk of the common men. There was no attempt on the part of the candidates to enlighten the electorates as to their rights and obligations. From 1924, the election of the Board began to be held in three years till 1935 when the life of the

Board was extended to five years according to the Bihar and Orissa Act V of 1935. The number of elected members from Samastipur subdivision was 6, from Sadar 10 and from Madhubani subdivision 8. The Board for the first time elected Shri Harinandan Das as its Chairman on 9th July 1924. He was a Congressite. The Board was reconstituted in 1927 and thereafter in July, 1931 when Raja Bahadur Visheshwar Singh was elected Chairman on 30th July 1931 and he continued the office up to 1939. The number of members of the District Board, Darbhanga was increased, vide Government notification no. 5660, L.S.-G., dated 11th October, 1938, from 32 to 40 of whom 30 were to be elected and 10 to be nominated. The Board was, therefore, reconstituted in 1939. The Congress Party predominated in the election of 1939 but most of the Congress members resigned in 1941 in pursuance of the Congress mandate. The last Board was constituted on the 19th October 1949, with 40 members of whom 39 were non-officials and one was official (*i.e.*, S.D.O., Madhubani). Out of 40 members, 30 members were elected and 10 members were nominated by the Government. Shri Ratneshwar Singh was elected Chairman and he was the last Chairman of the Board. There was no further election and this Board continued till it was vested in the Government on 15th September 1958.

The view was held that the efficiency of the administration of the District Board went on deteriorating and so it became imperative for the State Government to take steps for overhauling the whole administrative set up in the interest of the efficiency of the institution. Accordingly, the constitution of the District Board received a setback by the Ordinance no. VI of 1958 promulgated by the Governor of Bihar. This Ordinance was made under clause (*i*) of Article 213 of the Constitution of India. By notification no. 800-L.S.-G., dated the 12th September 1958, it was proclaimed that "all the members of the District Board and Local Boards including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall vacate their respective offices with effect from the 15th September 1958". In pursuance of this Ordinance all the District Boards including Darbhanga District Board were taken over by the Government. The reasons for taking this step are mentioned in the Bihar District Boards and Local Boards (Control and Management) Bill, 1958 which are as follows :—

"The District Boards and Local Boards constituted under the provisions of the Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government Act, 1885, have outlived their utility under the complete changed circumstances. On attainment of independence, there have been developments on a very large scale in the various fields of activities, *viz.*, Agriculture, Industry, Co-operation, Gram Panchayats, etc. These developments call for a complete reorientation in

the conception and constitution of District Boards and Local Boards so that these bodies could fulfil their role effectively in the changed circumstances. This is not possible unless the existing law is carefully examined in the light of these developments and is amended suitably to meet the present needs of the society.

"The Balvantrai Mehta Committee on the Community Development and National Extension Service have made a number of recommendations specially with regard to the future set up of District Boards. These recommendations require detailed examination and careful consideration before the State Government could come to a definite decision in the matter, which will obviously take some considerable time. Besides, some of the sister States in India are considering legislation regarding the constitution and powers of these Local Bodies and it is necessary to examine the provisions of these laws and their actual working before we embark on a comprehensive amendment of the Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government Act.

"It is, therefore, clear that the new set up of District Boards undoubtedly requires comprehensive amendment of the Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government Act of 1885. It was accordingly decided by the State Government to take over temporarily for three years the control and management of District Board and Local Boards pending consideration of their future set-up. The Bihar District Boards and Local Boards (Control and Management) Ordinance, 1958, has been promulgated to give effect to this decision.

"The Bill seeks to convert an ordinance into an Act of the State Legislature as the ordinance will cease to have effect after six weeks from the commencement of the present session of the State Legislature."

In this way the control and management of Darbhanga District Board was taken over by the State on the 15th September 1958. The District Magistrate, Darbhanga, was incharge of the Board from 15th September 1958 to 14th September 1959 and thereafter a Special Officer was deputed on 15th September 1959 to carry on the administration of the District Board, Darbhanga. With the assumption of the office by the Special Officer, all powers vested in the District Magistrate were transferred to him. The District Board under the new system continues to have the same powers and functions. The Special Officer functions both under the Local Self-Government Department and under the District Magistrate of Darbhanga.

Function.

Roads.—The area of the District Board is 3,321 sq. miles and it maintains 82 miles of metalled roads and 1,895 miles of unmetalled roads. Besides, 1,642 miles of roads are under the control of Local Boards. The statement showing expenditure over repairing and maintaining roads for the years 1959-60 and 1960-61 is given below:—

Year.	District Board.								Village roads.			
	Metalled.				Unmetalled.							
	Total length (in mile).	Cost of repairs (in rupees).	Cost of repairs per mile (in rupees).	Cost of original work (in rupees).	Total length (in mile).	Cost of repairs (in rupees).	Cost of repairs per mile (in rupees).	Cost of original work (in rupees).	Total length (in mile).	Cost of repairs (in rupees).	Cost of repairs per mile (in rupees).	Cost of original work (in rupees).
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1959-60 ..	83	34,095	[illegible]	1,31,127	1,981	2,18,115	110	12,667	[illegible]	8,138	6	..
1960-61 ..	82	27,873	340	[illegible]	1,895	1,63,501	86	78,827	1,642	9,960	5	..

Public Health.—The Public Health Reorganisation Scheme as formulated by the Government is functioning in this district with the following staff :—

(1) District Medical Officer of Health	..	1
(2) Assistant Health Officers	..	3
(3) Sanitary Inspectors	...	9
(4) Health Inspectors	..	24
(5) Vaccinators	...	127
(6) Disinfectors	...	48
(7) Clerks	...	6
(8) Peons	..	6

The usual epidemics of this district are cholera and small-pox. In the year 1960-61 both cholera and small-pox were prevalent in the district. The following were the figures of death and attacks :—

	Attack.	Death.
1. Cholera	948	340
2. Small-pox	17	3

The main function of the Public Health staff of the District Board is to prevent and combat epidemics. During 1960-61 11,21,800 persons were inoculated and 1,27,176 and 13,24,290 persons were given primary and re-vaccinations respectively. 4,27,617 wells were also disinfected. In order to combat malaria in the rural area 18 malaria centres were opened under different Medical Officers stationed at different malaria centres in the district in 1954. Timely action is also taken to prevent summer waves of cholera and small-pox every year. In 1951-52 there was an outbreak of plague in some villages and so 4,20,212 houses were sprayed with D D.T., 18,418 persons were inoculated, 4,451 houses were cynogassed, 2,04,280 rat holes were treated and 1,46,037 berium carbonate baits were distributed during the year 1951-52. The District Board had the services of Dr. S.H. Paul, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P., D.P.H (Lond.), D.T.M. (L'Pool) who was appointed in 1924-25 in place of Dr. Bhupesh Chandra Das Gupta, B. SC., M.B.(Cal.), M.R.C.P. (Ireland), D.T.M. & H. (Lond.) D.P.H. (Lond.) who could not join because of his illness.

The construction of bore hole latrines are also taken up in the district. Extensive Public Health propaganda is done by the public health staff by means of distributing leaflets, delivering lectures and celebrating World Health Day throughout the district.

Medical Relief.—For the medical relief in the rural areas the Board maintains six dispensaries located at Bahera, Sakri, Patori, Kaluahi, Timbahi and Panchov-Thirty-two dispensaries of the Board have so far been provincialised and were taken over by the State Government since 1956. All the above mentioned six dispensaries provide allopathic treatment. There are 17 Ayurvedic dispensaries functioning under the control and management of the Board, out of which 4 are in Samastipur subdivision, 5 in Madhubani subdivision and 8 in Sadar subdivision. The three Unani dispensaries are working under the Board at Aunsi, Babhangama, Rasalpur Nista and Jamalpur. One Homoeopathic dispensary at Sudai under Phulparas thana is also managed by the Board. The District Board's dispensaries have no indoor beds and surgical operations are not performed. The Board gives aid to the three Ayurvedic dispensaries situated at Madhubani, Samastipur and Samartha. The expenditure over the maintenance of these dispensaries in 1959-60 and 1960-61 was Rs. 1,05,238 and Rs. 1,14,398 respectively.

Education.—Before 1954 the District Board also used to construct and maintain school buildings and impart education up to middle standard but since 1st May 1954, the management of education has been taken over by the Government from the District Board under the Bihar Act VII of 1954. In 1953-54 the District Board had 76 Middle Vernacular, 416 Upper Primary, 490 Lower Primary (or *Maktabs*) Schools for boys and 6 Upper Primary and 11 Lower Primary Schools for girls. Besides, 72 Middle Vernacular, 2 Upper Primary and 2 Lower Primary Schools for boys and 1 Middle Vernacular, and 1 Lower Primary School for girls used to receive aid from the District Board. The total expenditure on education in 1953-54 was Rs 24,55,901 and in 1952-53, Rs. 18,65,577. In 1953-54 the District Education Fund was separated and was placed in the hands of the District Superintendent of Education. But the budget of the Education Fund is sanctioned by the District Board and the appointment and transfer of teachers in respect of Board-managed schools are also made by the Special Officer, District Board, Darbhanga. Thus it appears that despite a separate Education Fund operating under the District Superintendent of Education, the District Board has still some control over education. Regarding stipendiary and aided schools the power of the District Board has no doubt, been reduced, nevertheless, the consent of the Special Officer of District Board is sought while making appointment of teachers in such schools and in case the Special Officer differs with the District Superintendent of Education, the matter is referred to the District Magistrate whose decision is final. The District Board is required to contribute to the District Education Fund at the rate of the average of last three years' expenditure over education. But the Board has not paid the contribution due to the accumulation of heavy arrears of Cess with the Government. Further details may be found in the chapter Education and Culture.

The District Board also maintains 16 Inspection Bungalows, 3 Dak Bungalows and one Rest House. The list of Dak Bungalows and Inspection Bungalows has been given in chapter Communications. Usually a Dak or Inspection Bungalow has got two bed rooms with bath rooms and one common room with some furniture. As a rule food is not available, but the Chaukidar's services for cooking may be available. Some basic crockeries are also available.

The rent received from the Dak and Inspection Bungalows from 1954-55 to 1957-58 is given below:—

				Rs.
1954-55	..	..	..	2,058
1955-56	..	..	..	1,733
1956-57	..	..	..	2,038
1957-58	..	..	..	2,334

Income.—The main source of the income of the District Board is the road cess, originally payable by the landlords under the Cess Act at the rate of one anna for every rupee of the land revenue by the tenant and the equal amount by the Government. The road cess used to be paid along with the land revenue and then the road cess was transferred to the Board's fund in the Government Treasury after the deduction of the cost of realisation. After passing of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950, the Government took over the charge of zamindari from landlords and now it is the liability of the State Government to pay cess to the District Board. The present rate of cess is two annas for every rupee of the land revenue. The average annual demand from the cess is Rs. 12,49,000 against which the Government has been paying about 8 lakhs per year. The other main source of income is pounds and ferries. The District Board maintains 104 pounds and 105 ferries. The average annual income from pounds is about Rs. 4 thousands. The collection from ferries and pounds is accredited to the Government accounts directly and is received from the Government as countervailing grant. The details about the ferries have been given in the Communications chapter The other source of income is from cart tax The rate of registration fees of carts is as follows per year:—

			Rs.
(1) Agricultural cart	..	..	2
(2) Business cart..	..	..	6
(3) Tyred cart ..	..	..	10

The income from cart tax from 1952-53 to 1960-61 comes to Rs. 1,27,000. The average annual income from Board's property and other miscellaneous items amounts to about one lakh rupees.

Expenditure.—The main items of expenditure are now public health, civil works and general administrations. The expenditure over education by the Board has come down as the District Education Fund is financing it since 1st May, 1954. Similarly, dispensaries are also being provincialised and consequently expenditure on medical head is also reducing. As mentioned in the old *District Gazetteer of Darbhanga* the expenditure for the ten years, 1892-93 to 1901-02 was Rs. 3,47,000 out of which Rs. 1,85,000 were spent over civil works and Rs. 28,000 on education and Rs. 5,000 on medical relief. In 1904-05 the expenditure amounted to Rs. 3,49,000 while in 1960-61 the expenditure was Rs. 14,95,544. The figures show that the expenditure has increased by about four times more than what it was in the year 1904-05.

The statements given below show the Board's income and

INCOME, 1947-48

Head of receipts.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Land Revenue ..	13,106	15,036	17,306	16,053	16,271	17,064
Provincial rates ..	8,03,353	7,90,645	9,54,964	11,10,374	10,10,860	8,55,049
Interest ..	4,981	6,520	6,068	6,075	3,068	7,355
Law and Justice ..	259	452	091	045	318	775
Education ..	4,57,376	4,78,977	17,70,080	16,64,277	18,59,472	17,51,010
Medical ..	1,08,280	94,445	1,23,185	1,54,465	1,71,038	2,45,655
Scientific and other minor departments.	695	1,271	3,854	10,177	4,450	4,466
Stationery and Printing.	232	593	373	3,432	2,181	5,501
Miscellaneous ..	5,57,916	5,59,263	2,30,229	2,01,002	7,583	2,01,356
Civil Works ..	2,46,043	50,681	4,17,283	3,56,465	2,92,739	5,11,403
Deposits and advances	1,63,074	1,51,015	1,87,926	3,25,700	1,60,228	3,42,442
TOTAL ..	21,45,915	21,48,904	37,25,260	38,49,000	35,29,139	40,35,106

expenditure from the year 1947-48 to 1960-61.—

TO 1960-61.

IN RUPEES.]

1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959-60.	1960-61.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17,468	16,153	8,539	811	1,009	3,727	3,184	1,901
13,39,400	13,57,978	5,26,443	5,72,000	8,40,523	7,99,808	7,12,750	7,84,916
4,177	1,003	170	..	..	..	..	..
950	*693*	*1,247*	*2,530*	*1,106*	*1,618*	1,195	2,231
19,40,534	13,837	..	..	..	..	..	..
2,75,509	2,14,817	2,04,402	1,67,322	1,40,069	1,18,990	1,56,502	1,53,258
4,821	4,537	3,554	1,202	1,027	799	5,350	681
9,050	9,255	10,561	818	7,309	23,432	22,411	11,205
1,64,003	1,40,310	1,73,072	1,27,170	2,21,615	2,39,897	1,99,857	2,01,153
8,38,796	4,18,032	2,20,950	3,32,542	2,09,169	2,91,580	5,58,600	9,15,278
7,63,805	3,10,059	2,77,199	3,65,417	2,32,725	2,03,780	2,34,280	2,28,545
53,08,201	24,84,650	14,26,137	15,79,812	16,55,453	17,73,691	19,94,148	22,99,160

EXPENDITURE, 1947-48

Head of expenditure.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
General administration.	56,860	62,754	70,423	90,367	1,02,648	1,19,197
Police ..	103	101	57	97	918	143
Education ..	11,19,684	11,89,513	11,13,470	16,89,774	17,98,390	18,26,020
Public Health ..	1,53,915	1,79,839	1,73,535	2,79,363	3,30,100	3,98,296
Medical ..	1,69,114	1,76,472	1,77,071	2,13,656	2,27,959	2,15,570
Scientific and other minor departments.	25,293	33,031	37,190	38,835	36,272	40,390
Superannuation allowance and pensions.	22,813	21,030	23,574	27,083	32,811	67,513
Stationery and printing.	11,518	7,650	16,723	24,902	15,540	23,539
Miscellaneous ..	16,268	44,135	2,79,251	9,464	7,258	31,122
Civil Works ..	4,38,611	5,32,450	7,00,897	10,78,422	8,52,233	10,16,216
TOTAL ..	20,76,510	29,50,275	29,22,397	34,51,964	34,04,184	37,38,011
Debt, deposits and Advances.	1,41,694	1,51,769	2,35,117	3,27,278	2,81,257	3,54,924
TOTAL—EXPENDITURE	22,18,234	31,02,044	31,87,514	37,79,242	36,85,441	40,92,935

TO 1960-61.

[IN RUPEES.]

	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959-60.	1960-61.
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	1,30,322	1,16,013	1,21,937	1,20,625	1,10,072	1,03,258	63,701	65,368
	81	60	..	..	11	..	..	..
	22,06,050	3,71,971	1,51,537	26,755	[illegible]	11,697	300	29,256
	3,39,591	3,95,193	3,21,183	3,11,211	2,98,107	2,83,193	2,58,461	2,70,897
	2,62,625	2,44,703	2,89,705	1,44,151	1,23,977	1,41,200	1,22,263	1,10,203
	48,193	41,201	41,115	41,125	38,786	32,715	35,745	17,484
	1,06,676	18,171	16,655	20,133	11,850	20,050	17,479	18,627
	30,328	19,868	18,618	20,720	17,343	13,686	36,423	31,700
	23,926	6,17,391	24,907	23,890	[illegible]	18,776	57,098	27,958
	11,93,420	8,10,955	7,90,761	8,51,155	6,03,558	5,30,677	5,55,260	6 01 294
	44,34,138	27,27,846	17,85,847	15,66,365	12,54,598	11,64,012	11,37,205	12,68,000
	5,58,370	2,51,783	2,57,088	2,88,537	2,41,106	3,42,515	1,76,779	2,32,500
	49,92,508	29,79,629	20,42,935	18,54,900	11,95,298	15,06,527	13,13,984	14,95,500

Incidence of taxation.—The incidence of taxation as mentioned in the old District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907) was Re. 0-1-5 per head of the population while in 1960-61 the incidence of taxation was Re. 0.26 and income was Re. 0.57.

From 1947-48 to 1953-54 education continued to take the largest share of the total expenditure. In 1955-56 we find a sudden fall in expenditure. The reason is that the expenditure on education which was heaviest earlier, was not met by the District Board this year because of having a separate District Education Fund constituted in 1954. Now civil works and medical relief constitute the main items of expenditure.

Financial position.—The old District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907) mentions that this District Board was the richest District Board in the Patna Division and its income was 2 lakhs more than that of any other District Board in Bihar. But now the position is quite different. The Audit Report No. 117 of 1959-60 (period audited 1957-58) shows that the Board was not able to maintain any cash balance of its own. There was slight improvement in the general financial condition of the Board during the year 1957-58. The negative cash balance of Rs. 9,42,918 on 31st March 1957 had come down to Rs. 7,20,741 on 31st March 1958. Again, the Audit Report No. 115 of 1960-61 (period audited 1958-59, 1959-60) reveals that there was negative cash balance of Rs. 7,23,938 at the close of the year 1957-58 which came down to Rs. 60,082 by the end of the year 1959-60. Thus from the above mentioned Audit Report it appears that there has been improvement in the general financial condition of the Board. However, the Board does not maintain any cash balance of its own till now.

Madhubani Municipality.

The Madhubani Municipality was established on 1st April 1869. From its inception till now the area of the municipality is 4 square miles. Originally, the area was divided into 5 wards but at present there are 12 wards. The Municipal Board previously consisted of 16 members of whom 10 were elected and 5 were nominated and one was *ex-officio* member. The present Board has 18 elected and 4 nominated members. The Subdivisional Officer, Madhubani used to be the *ex-officio* Chairman of the municipality prior to 1922. The first non-official Chairman of this municipality was Sri Pandey Mahendra Prasad (1922). The population within municipal area according to the provisional figures of 1961 Census is 28,233 while in 1951 it was 23,283. The present municipal building was made over to the municipality by the Government after the Great Bihar Earthquake of 1934.

Sanitation.—The sanitary staff consists of one Assistant Health Officer and one Sanitary Inspector and a few subordinates. There are about 60 sweepers for conservancy work. Four trailors and one tractor are there for the disposal of night-soil. There is a trenching ground outside the town. There are 10 refuse carts for the disposal of garbage.

At the time of epidemics the sanitation staff have to work hard and mass inoculation, vaccination and disinfection of houses and wells are done. In 1960, 5,775 persons were inoculated, 172 persons were given primary vaccination, 1,484 persons were re-vaccinated, 6 houses and 1,164 wells were disinfected. In 1961, 11,701 persons were inoculated, 862 persons were given primary vaccination, 14,740 persons were re-vaccinated, 2 houses and 6,471 wells were disinfected.

Roads.—The municipality maintains one mile tarred road, 13 miles brick built road and 16 miles unmetalled road. The condition of the unmetalled road is very poor. It also maintains 5 miles *pucca* and 26 miles *katcha* drains. Poor finance is said to be the cause of bad and paucity of roads.

Education.—The municipality maintains 11 Lower Primary, 8 Upper Primary and one Middle Schools. Out of 19 Lower Primary Schools only two schools are for girls and the rest 17 schools are for boys. There is no separate Upper Primary or Middle Schools for girls.

The statement given below shows the number of teachers employed and number of students attending the municipal schools:—

—— ——	No. of schools.	No. of teachers employed.	No. of students.
Lower Primary ..	11	19	550
Upper Primary ..	8	48	1,500
Middle School ..	1	6	250
Total	20	73	2,300

Out of 19 teachers employed in 11 Lower Primary Schools, there are two mistresses for two Lower Primary Schools for girls.

The municipality also supervises and exercises control over four Lower Primary Schools, two Upper Primary Schools and one Middle School which are running under E.I.P. (Expansion and Improvement of Primary Education) Scheme.

Street lighting.—The incidence of street lighting is poor. Electric lights on the municipal roads were introduced in 1955. Kerosene oil lamps were used before. At present there are 218 bulbs which are lighted on 15 dark nights in the month (1962).

Water-Supply.—The municipality has 66 wells and 70 tube-wells which are adequate for the town which is developing fast. There are about 60 private wells in the town. There are some tanks as well. There is no arrangement for piped water-supply.

There is no fire-brigade and almost every year there is an outbreak of fire and thatched huts are burnt.

On an investigation it was found that there is a big leakage in cycle tax. The students appear to be the worst offenders. Seizure of the cycles leads to outbreaks of indiscipline.

Slaughter House.—The municipality maintains one slaughter house for goats and one for cattle. The average number of goats slaughtered every day is 25. The sanitary condition of the slaughter house is poor.

Burning ghats and Burial grounds.—The municipality does not maintain any burning ghat. It maintains two burial grounds for Mohammadans.

Municipal Market.—There is one municipal market at Gandhi Bazar where vegetables and foodstuff are sold in a very insanitary condition. The market is a good source of income to the municipality.

Hospital and dispensary.—The municipality had a full fledged allopathic dispensary with 20 beds for males and 10 for females. This hospital was provincialised and now it is under the management of the State Government. There is a Municipal Charitable Ayurvedic Dispensary in which two *Vaids* and two Compounders are engaged. Medicine is given free of charges to the outdoor patients.

The municipality has no public park. There is no town hall. The town is in dire need of at least one park and a town hall.

Sources of income.—The main sources of income are from holding tax, latrine tax, licence and registration fees, rent from municipal market, slaughter houses and road-side land and buildings and

Government grants. Up to 1961-62 the personal tax in place of holding tax was in existence. The holding tax in its place has been imposed with effect from March, 1962. The personal tax was realised at the rate of 1¼ per cent of the income of an assessee while the holding tax has been levied at the rate of 9 per cent on the annual value of the holding. The rate of latrine tax is 7½ per cent on the annual value of the holding. The collection of latrine and personal taxes has been very poor. In 1957-58, 1958-59 and 1959-60 the percentage of the total collection of personal and latrine taxes was 35, 34 and 29 respectively.

The rate and number of registered vehicles in 1961-62 are given below:—

		Annual rate of registration per vehicle.
		Rs.
Total number of ordinary cart ..	.. 200	8.25
Total number of tyre cart ..	.. 100	10.25
Total number of special cart ..	.. 600	6.25
Total number of *Ekka* ..	.. 30	12.00
Total number of Cycle ..	.. 35	4.25
Total number of Cycle Rickshaw ..	.. 200	10.00

Driver's licence fee for rickshaw is Rs 3.25 and for *Ekka* Rs. 6.00 only.

The Statements showing the income and expenditure from 1949-50 to 1960-61 e given below :—

INCOME.

[In Rupees.]

Head of receipts.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.
1	2	3	4	5
1. Municipal taxes	30,000	34,200	28,000	39,000
2. Municipal Registration and other fees	850	1,375	13,000	1,400
3. Realisation under Special Act ..	155	298	200	200
4. Revenue derived from municipal property apart from taxation.	25,000	26,000	40,000	28,506
5. Grant and contribution	31,000	33,000	83,000	60,400
6. Miscellaneous	677	745	1,500	800
7. Extraordinary debt.	28,500	26,000	31,000	14,000
TOTAL	1,22,182	1,21,618	1,97,300	1,44,306

EXPENDITURE.

[In Rupees.]

Head of expenditure.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.
1	2	3	4	5
1. General Administration	11,200	7,000	8,553	9,800
2. Public Safety	3,499	4,409	4,139	4,514
3. Public Health..	22,100	24,000	29,629	30,000
4. Medical	4,700	4,500	2,000	2,450
5. Public Convenience	20,300	23,000	46,000	37,000
6. Public Instruction	10,800	13,800	11,500	13,600
7. Miscellaneous	20,000	20,000	32,000	36,000
8. Extraordinary debt	25,000	44,000	75,000	26,425
TOTAL	1,23,599	1,40,799	2,08,421	1,61,789

1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959-60.	1960-61.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
21,000	20,000	25,000	20,368	29,349	29,439	27,868	21,231
9,500	8,200	7,000	9,156	8,889	7,092	8,046	7,422
290	494	100	597	313	535	215	200
29,000	34,600	22,129	33,416	20,855	18,788	30,228	19,689
58,300	50,984	60,000	81,760	58,346	1,04,105	90,551	94,719
2,100	3,700	1,900	16,075	14,275	1,710	1,570	1,749
2,200	49,300	16,000	38,328	9,941	8,516	16,511	22,230
1,22.390	1,73,278	1,38,129	2,08,700	1,41,968	1,70,185	1,88,095	1,67,296

1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959-60.	1960-61.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
7,500	7,885	11,000	13,193	12,076	13,971	18,005	15,202
5,400	5,047	5,658	7,820	5,024	9,151	14,428	8,844
29,000	40,753	4,700	52,530	76,745	57 138	53,936	72,562
4,900	5,926	2,094	3,247	1,429	1,597	2,977	5,460
47,000	47,106	47,000	34,873	15,089	6,356	27,028	6,357
12,076	17,073	33,000	28,150	38,077	46,342	49,997	35,081
4,000	3.779	4,100	3,190	1,646	4,129	2,524	2,050
12.400	5.913	10,000	37,131	10.950	9,397	38,591	8.485
1,22,276	1,33,544	1,27,162	1,80,140	1,65,245	1.49,381	2,07,486	1,54,107

From the statements of expenditure and receipts it appe... that there is a marked increase in both income and expendit... but it is not so high as in the case of Darbhanga Municipality. ... 1905-06 the income of the municipality was Rs. 21,380 as again... the total income of Rs. 1,67,290 in 1960-61. The expenditu... the year 1905-06 was Rs. 13,800 while in 1960-61 it was Rs.1,5... This indicates that the income has gone up about seven ... while the expenditure has gone up about eleven times. This ... not a good sign.

Financial position.—According to the Audit Report No. 73 of 1960-61 the deficit cash balance of the municipality on 31st March 1957 was Rs. 33,290 which swelled up to Rs. 48,251 on 31st March, 1959. At the end of the year 1956-57 the assets had exceeded the liabilities by Rs. 16,295 but this was reduced to Rs. 8,824 at the end of 1958-59. On 31st March, 1960 the deficit cash balance went up to the tune of Rs. 71,756. This shows that the financial position of the municipality is very unsatisfactory. The income of the municipality is not adequate for its normal commitments and the unspent balance of Government grant and loan for specific purposes have been freely drawn up to meet the deficit during the last several years.

This unsatisfactory state of affairs has been due to an allergy to impose taxes and to tap the available sources of income. Imposition of low taxes on large holdings belonging to influential people is another reason. The municipality is not discharging its statutory obligation by licensing shops under the Food Adulteration Act and imposing taxes on trades, professions and callings.

Under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1958, all shops carrying on business for manufacture, distribution and sale of foodstuff are required to be licensed. But the shops under the above mentioned Act have not been licensed. The executives and the Commissioners do not appear to be quite keen for taking necessary steps whereby they may personally become unpopular and lose votes in the next election. The Commissioners were also divided into groups and bitter rivalry has affected the municipal politics.

According to the new Sections 82A and 162A of the Municipal Act a stamp duty at the rate of 2 per cent on the value of the immovable properties transferred by sale, mortgage or gift, etc., is to be levied by the Registration Department in respect of all such properties situated within the municipal limits. This additional revenue after deducting the cost of collection is creditable to the municipal fund. The municipality never preferred the claim as pointed out in the Audit Report No. 62 of 1961-62.

RUSERA MUNICIPALITY.

Rusera was at one time a very important trading centre in the south of the district with active trade on the Baghmati and the

Burhi Gandak. Though it is still an important Bazar it has lost much of its importance since the opening of the railway. Because of the European indigo planters and merchants a municipality was established there on 1st April, 1869. At the beginning the indigo planters used to be the Chairmen of the municipality. At first the Municipal Board consisted of 14 Commissioners all of whom were nominated. At present, the Board consists of 13 elected and 3 nominated members. The area of the municipality has remained at 2½ square miles since its establishment. The area is divided into seven wards. All the wards return 2 Commissioners excepting ward no. 6 Mahabir Asthan which returns only one Commissioner.

The population of Rusera town in 1961 is 14,341 as against 12,067 in 1951. The population in 1941 was 10,154. There has been a steady rise in the population.

The present building of the municipal office was constructed in 1934 after the Bihar Earthquake.

Sanitation.

There is only one Sanitary Inspector in the municipality. The work of sanitation is most neglected in this municipality and it appears no Sanitary Inspector sticks to his work. No old records showing the incidence of epidemic diseases and preventive measures taken by the municipality are available in the municipality. However, the statement given below shows the occurrence of epidemic, death and attack and the preventive measures taken by the municipality in the recent years.

Year.	Small-Pox		Cholera.		Vaccination.		No. of wells disinfected.
	Attack.	Death.	Attack.	Death.	Primary	Re-vaccination.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1958-59	..	..	..	..	350	3,430	..
1959-60	80	1	..	..	362	1,600	..
1960-61	..	..	117	24	438	3,951	..
1961-62	..	..	107	41	400	4,779	838

There are 31 sweepers, 9 carters and 1 *jamadar*. The sweepresses collect night soil from the latrines in buckets and deposit it in night-soil carts. This is a revolting practice. There are four night-

soil carts. There are also four refuse carts which carry the refuse and garbage of the town. The trenching ground covers 10 kathas of land which was donated by Darbhanga Raj.

Water Supply.

The main source of the supply of water is well and tube-well. There are 33 municipal wells and 25 tube-wells for this purpose. There are also about 130 private wells. The area is densely populated and the present arrangement of water-supply is not sufficient.

Education.

In 1938-39 there were only 10 primary schools maintained by the municipality. The following statement shows the number of schools, students and teachers now :—

	Total number of schools.	Number of students.	Number of teachers.
Middle School ..	1	240	7
Upper Primary School .	3	368	11
Lower Primary School	16	864	27
	20	1,472	45

Out of 16 lower primary schools 3 are for girls in which 4 mistresses are working. There is no upper or middle school for girls. The town is in sore need of a middle school for girls. The schools are not well run and the teachers are not regularly paid.

Roads.

The municipality maintains 2 miles, 4 furlongs, 165 yards of *pucca* and 5 miles, 51 yards of *katcha* roads. The condition of the *katcha* roads is very miserable and during rainy season it is a task to pass through them. Even the main road through the heart of the town up to the Municipal Office is in a bad condition. The road is very narrow and the market is congested. There is no drain in the market and that is why, water cannot pass through and it accumulates on both sides of the road.

Street lighting.

The municipality provides electric light with effect from December, 1956. There are 100 bulbs on the main roads and lanes. Besides, there are also 54 kerosene street lamps and they are lighted for 15 nights in a month.

Disposal of dead bodies.

There is no burning ghat or burial ground maintained by the Municipality. There is a private burial ground for Mohammadans. The dead bodies of the Hindus are cremated on the bank of the river Gandak. Registration of dead bodies as provided in the Act is not done properly.

Municipal Market.

There is a municipal market in the centre of the town on a piece of land donated by Sri Nunu Prasad Singh of village Thatia. There is also one slaughter house. The sanitary condition of the slaughter house is very poor.

Pound.

There is one municipal pound reconstructed after the Bihar Earthquake of 1934. The pound does not fetch good income.

Hospital.

The municipality had a hospital consisting of male and female wards. The male ward had 12 beds and the female ward had six beds. It had been under the management of the municipality from 1st October, 1880 to 30th November, 1960 when it was provincialised and taken over by the State Government.

Municipal Library.

There is one Jawahar *Pustkalaya* since 1950 maintained by the municipality and now housed in the office building. A building for the library is under construction. There are about one thousand books in the library. The library is also equipped with a radio. The library is not well utilised.

Children's Park

A park has been provided recently by the municipality. The site is small and not attractive and the park is not popular either.

Sources of income.

The main sources of income are from latrine tax, personal tax, holding tax, registration and licence fees, rent from market and slaughter house, stalls, pound and Government grants. Holding tax is realised at the rate of 12½ per cent on the annual value of the Government and Railway buildings only. Personal tax has been levied at the rate of Rs. 1.25 on the gross income of an assessee

and latrine tax is realised at the rate of 6 per cent on the annual value of the holding. The statement given below shows the annual rate of registration fees and the number of vehicles registered in 1961-62 :—

Vehicle.	Registration fee.		Total no. of vehicles registered.
	Rs.	nP.	
Cycle Rickshaw	10	0	27
Cycle	4	0	675 (225 town cycles + 450 village cycles).
Tanga	8	0	6
Thela	6	0	10
Pack Pony	1	25	147
Special cart	6	0	355
Ordinary cart	8	0	900

The registration fee for village and town cycle is the same. Prior to 1960 there were only three rickshaws in the town. Rickshaws are replacing the horse drawn *tangas*.

The statement given below indicates the total income and expenditure from 1951-52 to 1960-61 :—

Year.		Total income (in rupees).	Total expenditure (in rupees).
1951-52	..	54,065	49,987
1952-53	..	49,209	52,100
1953-54	..	66,479	72,749
1954-55	..	61,935	60,268
1955-56	..	61,889	69,148
1956-57	..	75,753	70,800
1957-58	..	72,397	69,634
1958-59	..	70,504	73,087
1959-60	..	86,124	78,349
1960-61	..	99,655	1,10,147

From the figures of expenditure and income given above it appears that the income and expenditure have almost doubled themselves within a decade. In the year 1905-06 the income and expenditure of the municipality were Rs. 6,430 and 5,500 respectively while in 1960-61, the income amounted to Rs. 99,665 and the

expenditure was Rs. 1,10,147. This shows that the income has gone up 14 times and expenditure 20 times more than what they were in 1905-06.

Financial position.

Under rule 13 of the Municipal Accounts Rules, the municipality is required to maintain a minimum closing balance of Rs. 6,000 but the analysis of the closing balance shows that the net free cash balance of the municipality on 31st March, 1961 was (—) Rs. 61,753.03. So it appears that the financial position of the municipality is very unsatisfactory. The municipality is entirely subsisting on Government grants which have been encroached upon till 31st March, 1961 to the tune of Rs. 51,895.14. The staff salaries were also not paid regularly and were kept in arrears for months together.

The municipality as it appears from Audit Report No. 45 of 1961-62, has also diverted the Provident Fund subscriptions amounting to Rs. 7,500 (which had been deducted from the pay bill of the employees) for meeting day-to-day expenditure. The levy of professional tax has been made compulsory with effect from 1st April, 1956 *vide* Government Notification no. 3253-L.S.-G, dated the 23rd March 1959, but no action was taken hitherto to impose this tax in this municipality. According to the Government Notification no. 5775, dated 17th November, 1959 the municipality is required to levy the free primary education cess at 6¼ per cent of the tax on a holding but no action has been taken by this municipality to realise the cess.

This municipality suffers badly because of intense party politics and groupism. At present there are two groups and it is stated that over thirty thousand rupees from each side was spent over the last election of the municipality and a very panicky situation was created on the eve of the election. The party feeling is not only circumscribed to the municipal campus but it has also creeped into the educational and social institutions.

SAMASTIPUR MUNICIPALITY.

Short History.—Samastipur had a large number of British planters of indigo who were also big zamindars, land-holders and capitalists. They insisted on having a municipality and in spite of great opposition by the authorities of the then B. &. N. W. Railway, on the 14th September, 1896 by the Notification no. 469-T. M., published in the Calcutta Gazette, the town of Samastipur and adjoining villages named Samastipur, Dharampur, Bangra, Magardahi, Bahadurpur, Kashipur, Chak Adil and Kazichak were declared by the Lieutenant Governor to form a municipality with effect from 1st January, 1897. The Lieutenant Governor also appointed the following persons to be the Commissioners of the

municipality :—(1) S. D. O., Samastipur, (2) Assistant Civil Surgeon, Samastipur, (3) Mr. Aaron. (4) Mr. Ephrain Ryles (5) Mr. Cecil Harman, (6) Sri Dhanukdhari Prasad, (7) Maulvi Mohamad Yahia, (8) Sri Ram Narain Tiwari, (9) Sri Atuleshwar Bose and (10) Munshi Mohammad Ishaq. According to the Bengal Act III, which governed the municipalities during that period, S. D. O., Samastipur, used to be the *ex-officio* Chairman of the municipality. The first *ex-officio* Chairman was Mr. C. P. Bracbcrop and Shri Atuleshwar Bose was elected the first Vice-Chairman on 12th February, 1897. It is interesting to note that in the very second meeting of the newly constituted Municipal Board the Chairman proposed that a tax upon persons occupying holdings be levied but it was vehemently opposed by all members who were present in the meeting.

The S. D. O. used to be the *ex-officio* Chairman till the Bihar and Orissa Municipal Act of 1922 was passed and brought into force. Thereafter the non-officials were allowed to contest for this office. Shri Girwardhar, B. A., B. L., a congressman of this town contested for this office and was elected the first non-official Chairman on 28th August, 1925. After the enforcement of the Bihar and Orissa Municipal Act of 1922, the strength of the Municipal Board was fixed for 15 members of whom 12 were to be elected and 3 were to be nominated. At present the number of Municipal Commissioners is 18 of whom 15 are elected and 3 are nominated by the Government.

Area and Population.—This municipality has an area of 1¾ square miles. There has been no expansion in its area since its establishment. In 1902 the population of the town was 9,101 which came down to 8,017 in 1911 but thereafter the population is increasing rapidly. According to the census of 1951 the population of this town was 19,366 and now according to 1961 Census it is 25,726. The total number of holdings is 2,061. The whole area is divided into 8 wards for proper and efficient arrangement of municipal amenities and administration.

Sanitation.—The sanitary staff consists of one Assistant Health Officer, one Sanitary Inspector, one Health Inspector and some subordinate staff.

Their main function is to take preventive measures such as to disinfect wells and houses and to vaccinate and inoculate the town people during summer or in any time when there is an outbreak or ear of any epidemic. The following statement shows the attacks and deaths from epidemics and the eventive measures taken :—

Year		Attack.		Death.		Recovery.		Number of inoculation.	Disinfection		Vaccination.	
		Cholera.	Small Pox	Cholera.	Small-Pox.	Cholera.	Small-Pox.		Well.	House.	Primary.	Re-vaccination.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1956	..	Nil	4	Nil	4	Nil	Nil	4,427	1,475	Nil	207	761
1957	.	18	3	4	3	14	Nil	8,197	2,672	66	215	2,888
1958	..	1	14	Nil	6	1	6	17,140	3,537	1	390	15,578
1959	.	Nil	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	7,977	6,337	1	457	11,458
1960	..	9	Nil	4	Nil	6	Nil	11,105	8,273	111	325	10,190
1961	..	31	Nil	4	Nil	27	Nil	10,455	8,301	137	262	15,811

There are 50 sweepers, 85 sweepresses, 8 *Bhisits* and 21 carters for conservancy purpose. The night-soil is disposed of by sweepresses with the help of buckets. They deposit night-soil in night-soil carts which carry it to the trenching ground. There are 16 night-soil carts, four loading stations in different wards, and one trenching ground situated at Dharampur in ward no. 8. There are two trucks and one tractor with five night-soil trailors. Three rubbish trailors have also been put along with six rubbish carts. The municipality is also maintaining two public latrines. The number of private privies is very large. There is a scheme for the construction of *pucca* drain for the whole town at the estimated cost of Rs. 47,520. The Municipal Board has already sent its resolution to the Government for sanction. The order is awaited. At present the municipality maintains 3 miles of *Katcha* and 7 miles of *pucca* drains.

Communication.

The municipality has 1 mile, 1 furlong and 21 yards of tarred road, 1 furlong and 92 yards of road which has pavement with bricks, 6 furlongs and 193 yards of metalled road and 183 yards of *katcha* road. The condition of *katcha* road is very pitiable during rains. The average expenditure over roads comes to about one thousand rupees every year. Due to paucity of fund roads are not repaired regularly. For a large and important town like Samastipur the communications are poor.

Education.—In 1938-39 the municipality maintained 8 Primary Schools and one middle school for boys and one Middle School for girls. At present, the municipality is maintaining one Middle School, ten Upper Primary Schools and two Lower Primary Schools for boys and one Lower Primary School for girls. Besides, there are 20 Lower Primary Schools under the E. I. P. Scheme which have also been put in the charge of the municipality. The total number of boys and girls attending municipal schools is 1,684 and 486 respectively. There are 49 teachers and 9 mistresses employed in the municipal schools. The total expenditure over education in the year 1961-62 was Rs. 66,784.

Water-supply.—Though there is no special arrangement here for water-supply, scarcity is not felt. The main source of water supply are wells and tube-wells. The railway authorities at Samastipur have got their own arrangement of water works from which they supply water to their colonies and quarters. The local sugar factory has also got its own water works for their colony. The other citizens get water from 26 municipal wells and 26 tube-wells. Besides, there are 239 private wells and 7 private tube-wells in the town. The necessity of piped water-supply is keenly felt which is very difficult for this municipality to accomplish without the help of the Government. The Public Health

Department has prepared a plan for this in consultation with the municipality and the matter is under consideration of the Government.

Street Lighting.—The town of Samastipur was fortunate to have electric light since 1941 from the North Bihar Electric Supply Company. But by the end of 1952 due to financial difficulties, the Company stopped the supply and the whole town reverted to the media of oil lamps. However, the Government of Bihar came to their rescue and a State-owned power station has been set up at Samastipur. This has started supply of current for lights etc. with effect from 1st June 1954. The Municipality has also managed to provide electric light on the main roads and lanes of the municipality since then.

Municipal Market.—For the convenience of the public the municipality also maintains one market where vegetables, foodstuff, fish and meat etc., are sold. This market is located in the centre of the town known as *Gudri* Market. The sanitary condition of the slaughter house is not satisfactory.

Disposal of dead bodies.—The municipality has contributed Rs. 4,000 for the construction of buildings for the two eastern and western burning *ghats* located on the outskirts of the town. There is one burial ground for the Christians near Railway Bridge. There is a burial ground for the Muslims located at Magardahi in ward no. 4. As the dead bodies are cremated in or buried in the private land, their registration as provided in the Municipal Act is not made properly.

Municipal Park.—The municipality has one children's park known as Jawahar Bal Udyyan. This park is situated in ward no. 6 at the back of the Court Compound and it covers an area of about 3 acres of land.

Sources of income.—The main sources of income are from holding tax levied at the rate of 10 per cent and latrine tax imposed at the rate of 7½ per cent on the annual value of the holding, licence and registration fees, rent from municipal market, road-side land and buildings, and Government grants. The Board is also considering the imposition of professional tax. The following statement shows the annual rate of registration fee per vehicle and the number of vehicles registered in the year 1961-62 :—

Name of vehicle.	Registration fee. Rs. nP.	Total number of vehicles registered.
1. Cycle rickshaw ..	10.25	326
2. *Tamtam* ..	4.25	8
3. Cycle ..	4.25	709
4. Ordinary cart ..	8.50	529
5. Special cart ..	2.50	400

Cyclerickshaws are replacing the horsedrawn *tamtams*.

The statements given below show the income and expenditure of the municipality from 1951-52 to 1960-61.—

INCOME

[In Rupees.]

Head of receipt.	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	9	10
Municipal rates, taxes and registration fees.	48,930	66,432	58,221	51,491	59,779	77,047	86,413	90,979	81,102
Realisation under special Act ..	1,399	1,329	1,155	1,299	2,046	1,775	1,546	3,639	3,230
Revenue derived from municipal property other than taxation.	39,746	44,448	37,563	32,914	40,198	48,174	40,886	46,792	44,848
Government grants and contribution.	45,752	57,680	73,679	42,786	89,347	45,597	47,571	79,588	1,29,792
Miscellaneous	3,596	8,047	6,735	10,254	10,772	8,110	44,596	6,190	5,262
Extraordinary Debt ..	18,316	10,120	4,397	7,446	3,632	1,257	458	540	3,666
Total	1,57,739	1,88,056	1,91,750	1,46,190	2,05,774	1,81,960	2,21,470	2,27,728	2,67,900

EXPENDITURE.

[In Rupees.]

Major Heads of expenditure.	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
General Administration and Collection charges.	10,561	10,745	11,768	13,047	19,637	11,679	11,935	12,883	15,428	18,159
Public Health and Conveniences.	83,078	74,366	74,938	71,430	57,537	86,335	88,972	93,586	1,01,096	1,08,033
Public Safety ..	5,436	2,246	4,903	1,139	3,333	2,023	2,993	2,072	10,068	15,922
Medical ..	3,726	2,239	4,514	4,636	5,791	3,037	2,795	3,156	2,498	6,658
Public Works ..	9,423	18,701	21,510	11,903	24,749	4,636	16,703	6,620	13,157	9,760
Public Instruction .	29,693	30,643	29,182	31,737	34,316	38,969	42,532	44,027	77,785	63,042
Miscellaneous .	14,756	3,070	1,648	12,728	7,467	12,396	7,716	4,239	9,732	27,420
Extraordinary debt ..	18,158	17,122	14,595	7,859	35,570	29,422	25,903	55,984	13,279	12,052
General contribution. ..	Nil	50	50	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total .	1,74,831	1,59,782	1,63,109	1,54,479	1,88,591	1,98,6[illegible]7	1,99,549	2,22,567	2,43,043	2,61,046

From the statements of income and expenditure it appears t during the last decade the income has increased by one lac of rup and similar increase in expenditure is also noticeable. In 1905 the income of the municipality was Rs. 11,150 while in 1960-61 amounted to Rs. 2,67,900. This indicates that the income h increased about 24 times during the last fifty years. The expenditure in 1905-06 was 9,440 while in 1960-61 it went up t Rs. 2,61,046. The increase in expenditure is about 28 times mo than what it was in 1905-06.

Incidence of taxation.—In 1905-06 the incidence of taxation was 10 annas 1 pie per head of the population while in 1960-61 it was Rs. 4.02.

Financial position.—According to the Audit Report No. 83 of 1952-53 the statement of assets and liabilities exhibiting the financial position of the municipality as it stood on 31st March 1952 is given below :—

Total assets . . Rs. 47,183.

Total liabilities . . Rs. 33,014.

The assets exceeded the liabilities by Rs. 14,169. But the financial position began to deteriorate since 1953-54 and on 31st March 1956 the municipality had no cash free balance. The net free balance was (—) Rs. 31,437. It had encroached upon the funds earmarked for specific purposes. However, the present condition is much improved. On 31st March 1961 the Municipality has a net free balance of Rs. 7 440. In comparison with other municipalities in this district, Samastipur Municipality has better financial stability. But it cannot be claimed that its financial position is very sound. The municipality still does not maintain the minimum closing balance. It requires to maintain a minimum balance of two months, average expenditure.

The municipality is not free from party politics. There are two rival groups in the present Municipal Board. The present Chairman of the municipality is Sri Mauzi Lal Choudhury who has been serving the municipality in this capacity from 8th January 1931 to 11th April 1938, again from 2nd January 1941 to 28th August 1952 and then from 11th February 1956 till now (June, 1962)

General Review.—Darbhanga district has four Municipalities located at Darbhanga, Samastipur, Madhubani and Rusera and one Notified Area Committee at Jainagar. The Darbhanga municipality is the oldest municipality and the Samastipur is the youngest one. The Rusera and Madhubani Municipalities are twins as they have come into existence on the same day, i.e., on 1st April,

1869. But when we judge them on the ground of functions they perform, their financial condition and management, we notice that Samastipur Municipality has the best position. It is the only municipality in the district that has its own cash balance and makes a regular payment to its employees. On 31st March, 1961 this municipality had a net free balance of Rs. 7,740 The other three municipalities are running in deficit and have encroached upon the Government grants. On 31st March 1960 the net closing balance of Darbhanga Municipality was (—) Rs. 2,06,616 while the Madhubani Municipality had the deficit cash balance of Rs. 71,756. The Rusera Municipality had net free cash balance of (—) Rs. 61,753.03 on 31st March 1961.

So far their functions are concerned it is to be observed that the Rusera Municipality is the worst where none of the important functions such as sanitation, public works, education and water-supply is not properly attended to. The Darbhanga Municipality provides some of the basic amenities to its citizens. This is the only municipality in this district which has its own water works and is also making efforts for giving all the basic amenities The Madhubani Municipality seems to be slack and does not exhibit any initiative for the improvement of the town life. There is no scheme for piped water-supply, town hall and public park which are the crying needs of the town. The Rusura and Madhubani municipalities are not keeping pace with the Darbhanga and Samastipur municipalities. The main reason is that in both Rusera and the Madhubani municipalities, party politics is at its peak and the members of the Municipal Board take more interest in it and less in the municipal affairs. That is the general report.

It is in the fitness of things that the Bihar Government is going to introduce the Bihar Municipal (Amendment) Bill in the next session of the Bihar Vidhan Sabha which is to commence from September 3, 1962.

The Bill proposes to reorganise the entire set-up of the municipalities and it seeks to appoint Executive Officers in all municipalities. According to the provisions of the Bill the municipal Councillors will only lay own broad policy and the Executive Officers will implement them. The Executive Officer will also be responsible for day-to-day executive work of the civic bodies. This function is hitherto performed by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman. The Executive Officer will be appointed by the State Government in consultation with the Chairman who will be elected at the beginning of each financial year. As under the proposed Bill the Executive Officer is to take away important powers from the Chairman, the post of Chairman will not be so alluring.

The Jainagar Notified Area Committee.*

The Jainagar Notified Area Committee was established on 13th November, 1955. The Subdivisional Officer, Madhubani is the *ex-officio* Chairman. Originally, the Committee consisted of 14 nominated members but at present there are 17 nominated members.

The area of the Committee extends over 0.62 square mile. It is divided into 3 wards. The population according to provisional population figures of 1961 Census is 7,902 of whom 1,546 are tax payers.

The Committee maintains 8 metalled, and 7 non-metalled roads covering an area of about 2 miles. The Committee has 7 wells and 6 tube-wells in different wards for the supply of water to the town people. There is no scheme for piped water-supply.

The Committee has employed one *Zamadar*, one '*mate*' and twenty-nine sweepers including sweepress. Their main function is to keep the road and *nalas* clean and to dispose of night-soil. Only sweepresses collect night-soil in buckets and deposit it in night-soil carts which carry it to the trenching ground. At present the Committee has not any trenching ground of its own. However, it has managed to take lease of one bigha of land on annual basis for this purpose. It has resolved to purchase land for the trenching ground and a sum of Rs 1,640 has been deposited for purchasing land near the Kamla Canal. There is no Sanitary Inspector or Health Inspector to take preventive measures when any epidemic breaks out.

The Committee provides electric light on its main roads with effect from June, 1960. There are 100 bulbs for this purpose and they are lighted for 15 dark nights in a month. The average cost over street lighting comes to Rs. 300 per month.

The Committee has moved the State Government for the construction of drain for the area under its management. The Survey party has submitted its reports to the Government and its order is awaited.

The Committee maintains one slaughter house for goats. It is situated in ward no. 1. This is annually leased out to the highest bidder and the responsibility for keeping the slaughter house clean is on the contractor. The slaughter house is kept dirty.

The Committee does not possess any market, public park, library, burning *ghat* or burial grounds.

The present building where the office of the Committee is located was constructed in 1956.

The main sources of income of the Committee are holding tax and latrine tax. The holding and latrine taxes have been levied at the rate of 7½ per cent and 4 per cent respectively on the

*Jainagar is also written as Jaynagar (P.L.P.L)

annual value of the holding. The other sources of income are licence fees for offensive and dangerous trades, registration fees, Government grants and rent from road-side land, buildings and slaughter house. The table given below shows the rate of registration fees and the number of vehicles registered in the year 1961-62.

	Rs.	
1. Special Cart	4	1,480
2. Ordinary Cart	6	64
3. Cycle	4	108
4. Pack Pony	4	118

Professional tax has also been levied with effect from 1st April, 1959.

The following statement shows the demand and collection in respect of holding tax and latrine tax from 1956-57 to 1961-62.

Serial no.	Year.	Holding Tax. Demand.	Holding Tax. Collection. Arrear.	Holding Tax. Collection. Current.	Holding Tax. Collection. Total	Latrine Tax. Demand.	Latrine Tax. Collection. Arrear	Latrine Tax. Collection. Current.	Latrine Tax. Collection. Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	1956-57 ..	.. 10,006.40	.	4,894.73	4,894.73	3,254.56	..	1,539.72	1,539.72
2	1957-58 ..	.. 20,012.79	2,566.13	11,598.67	14,164.80	6,509.12	733.11	3,941.78	4,674.89
3	1958-59 ..	.. 20,082.54	6,132.70	12,811.39	18,944.09	6,559.12	1,962.94	4,290.91	6,253.75
4	1959-60 ..	.. 21,084.44	3,520.70	11,296.81	14,817.51	7,124.12	1,018.90	4,073.01	5,091.91
5	1960-61 ..	.. 21,084.44	5,409.62	13,456.23	18,865.85	7,139.32	1,681.36	4,842.60	6,523.96
6	1961-62 ..	.. 21,084.44	2,388.97	12,898.14	15,287.11	7,139.32	620.63	4,593.25	5,213.88
	Total	.. 1,13,355.05	20,018.12	66,955.97	86,974.09	37,705.56	6,016.84	23,281.27	29,298.11

Local Boards.—There are three Local Boards at the Subdivisional headquarters, viz., Sadar, Madhubani and Samastipur. The Sadar Local Board covers an area of 869 square miles with a population of 9,93,800 while Madhubani and Samastipur Local Boards have jurisdiction over 1,341 and 1,121 square miles with a population of 13,42,902 and 12,92,903 respectively. Originally, the Local Boards of Madhubani and Samastipur consisted of 11 and 8 members respectively. In 1927 the Sadar Local Board had 8 members of whom 6 were elected and 2 were co-opted by the District Board, Madhubani Local Board consisted of 13 members of whom 10 were elected and 3 were co-opted and Samastipur Local Board comprised 8 members of whom 6 were elected and two were co-opted. The number of members gradually increased. The last election of the Local Board was held in 1948-49. The following are the figures of the members constituting the Board :—

—	Members elected.	Members co-opted	Total.
Sadar Local Board .	8	2	10
Madhubani Local Board ..	12	4	16
Samastipur Local Board ..	10	3	13

Prior to 1924 the Subdivisional Officers used to be the Chairmen of the Local Boards. Thereafter the election of non-official Chairman was introduced.

The Local Boards get allotment of funds from the District Board and have in their charge maintenance of important village roads which have been taken on the schedule as the Local Board Roads. In 1958 the three Local Boards maintained 1,617 miles of village roads.

Prior to May, 1954 the Local Boards also managed primary education but since then they have been relieved of this duty due to the creation of the District Education Fund which was put under the control of the District Superintendent of Education. In 1953-54 the Local Boards had 416 Upper Primary Schools for boys and 6 Upper Primary Schools for girls, 490 Lower Primary Schools for boys and 11 Lower Primary Schools for girls. Besides, the Local Boards had also 26 stipendiary Upper Primary Schools and 473 Lower Primary Schools for boys and 129 Lower Primary Schools for girls.

The Sadar Local Board maintained 31 pounds, Madhubani 39 and Samastipur Local Board 30. The total income from these 100 pounds amounted to Rs. 3,343 in 1957-58.

The Local Boards also managed 9 touring Veterinary Dispensaries and 3 Veterinary Hospitals located at each subdivisional headquarters. These dispensaries and hospitals have been provincialised with effect from November, 1950.

In pursuance of Government Notification no. 8001-L. S.-G., dated 12th September 1958 all the three Local Boards have been taken over by the District Magistrate, Darbhanga with effect from 15th September, 1958. Since 14th September 1959, these Local Boards have been put in the charge of the Special Officer, District Board, Darbhanga.

Union Boards.—Earlier there were six union Boards, at Rahmatpur, Deswa, Singhwara, Rohika, Khaura, Madhurapur respectively. The Union Boards proved to be superfluous after Gram Panchayats came in. Therefore, out of 6 Union Boards, 5 Union Boards, namely, Rahmatpur, Deswa, Singhwara, Rohika and Kharua have been abolished according to Government letter no. 1021-G. P., dated 5th February 1954 and were replaced by the Gram Panchayats noted against their names under notification nos. 10201 and 10202 L.S.-G., dated 30th October 1958.

Name of the Union Board.	Name of the Gram Panchayat.
Rahmatpur ..	.. (1) Dhudpura. (2) Rahmatpur. (3) Pokhrairasilout. (4) Ramkrishnapur.
Deswa ..	.. (1) Belari. (2) Harpurrehari. (3) Lahagi. (4) Deswa. (5) Ramchandrapurandbail. (6) Malti. (7) Pataili. (8) Maishari.
Singhwara ..	. (1) Singhwara. (2) Mankuli. (3) Mahespatti. (4) Paigambarpur.
Rohika ..	.. (1) Rohika. (2) Kakruar. (3) Satlakha.
Kharua ..	.. (1) Araria. (2) Nawani.

All the Union Boards were constituted under the village Administration Act, 1922, and were vested with the powers under parts III, IV, V of the Act. The main function of the Union Board was to collect the chaukidari tax and union tax and to look after sanitation, conservancy and drainage of the villages under the union. In order to enable to collect chaukidari tax the above Gram Panchayats have been vested with the statutory powers for appointing a Committee of five persons under Section III of the

Village Chaukidari Act, 1870. The appointment is made by the District Magistrate from amongst the members of the Executive Committee of the Gram Panchayat. Hence, a Committee of five persons in each of the above mentioned Gram Panchayats has been formed by the District Magistrate, Darbhanga, the intimation of which has been sent to the Director of Gram Panchayats, Bihar, Patna, vide his letter nos. 298-PRC, dated 17th June, 1958 and 1452, dated 9th July 1958. After the abolition of the Union Board the collection of the chaukidari tax has been entrusted to the Panchayats and the transfer of power from the President of the Union Board to the respective Gram Panchayats has been made by the S. D. Os. concerned.

Madhurapur is the only Union Board in this district which has not yet been abolished but it is also to be abolished soon. A Committee of 5 men has been formed and the proposal for the abolition of the Board is soon to be sent to the Government for its denotification. The following Gram Panchayats are to replace the Madhurapur Union Board :—

(1) Bandhar.
(2) Rahtaoli.
(3) Bhatora.
(4) Madhurapur.
(5) Ballipur.

Dalsingsarai Union Committee.

The Dalsingsarai Union Committee was constituted in 1909. It covers an area of 2½ square miles with a population of 8,500. The area is divided into five wards which cover the following villages :—

(1) Bisrampur.
(2) Bhagwanpur Chaksekhu.
(3) Chaklokman.
(4) Loknathpur.
(5) Jaijpatti.

Prior to 1924 the Sub-Registrar of Dalsingsarai used to be the President of the Committee. The Committee was partly superseded by the District Board in 1957-58 when the assessment and the collection of union and latrine taxes and arrangement of sanitation were taken over by the District Board. Again, on 13th July 1959, the District Board took over charge of settlement of pounds, market buildings and markets, road-side lanes and shops. The only function left to the Committee was street lighting arrangements.

Prior to 1957-58 the Union Committee had 9 metalled roads, and 20 metalled lanes. Road nos. 1 and 5 measuring 2,700 ft. by 20' and 1,700 ft. by 25' respectively were very busy ones and consequently they were repaired every year. The total mileage of communication under the Union Committee was 2½ miles.

Income and Expenditure.

The figures for receipt and expenditure for the years 1958-59, 1959-60, 1960-61 are given below :—

Receipt.		Expenditure.	
Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	Rs.		Rs.
1958-59	1,234.00	1958-59	6,423.83
1959-60	5,167.50	1959-60	15,401.65
1960-61	5,624.25	1960-61	22,762.08

The arrears of Union and latrine taxes as taken down from the Demand Register are analysed below according to the years to which they relate :—

Year.	Union Tax (in rupees).	Latrine Tax (in rupees).	Total (in rupees).
1951-52	48.00	12.00	60.00
1952-53	333.00	243.00	576.00
1953-54	752.50	207.50	960.00
1954-55	543.50	141.00	684.50
1955-56	2,628.75	834.50	3,463.25
1956-57	3,930.50	2,182.00	6,112.50
1957-58	4,228.00	2,350.50	6,578.50
1958-59	5,453.00	2,696.50	8,149.50
1959-60	6,133.50	2,917.50	9,051.00
1960-61	6,349.50	3,145.50	9,495.00
Total	30,400.25	14,730.00	45,130.25

Out of Rs. 45,130.25 a sum of Rs. 2,280.50 relating to the periods 1951-52 to 1954-55 has become barred by limitation. The arrears for the years 1953-54 and 1954-55 totalling Rs. 1,644.50 are covered by suits and remissions.

With effect from 22nd March, 1961, the Union Committee was completely superseded by the State Government for mal administration vide their Resolution no. 1291-L.S.-G., dated the 15th February, 1961 and it was placed under the direct control of the Special Officer, District Board, Darbhanga. The period of supersession has been renewed for a further period of two months vide Government notification no. 3624-L.S.-G., dated the 18th May, 1962, which has come into effect from the 22nd May, 1962.

The proposal of converting the Union Committee into Notified Area Committee is under consideration of the State Government and the final decision has not yet been made.

Town Planning.

The District has six towns, viz., Darbhanga (Class I), Madhubani (Class II), Samastipur (Class III), Rosera (Class IV), Dalsingsarai (Class V) and Jainagar (Class VI). The population of these towns according to the Census figures of 1951 and 1961 are given below:—

	1951.	1961.
Darbhanga town	84,810	1,03,106
Madhubani	23,263	28,23[illegible]
Samastipur	19.366	25,736
Rosera	12,067	14,341
Dalsingsarai	7,853	12,540
Jainagar	7,011	7,902

The towns in the Darbhanga district have slowly formed themselves without any pre-planning. Even now there is no regular town planning scheme before the municipal authorities. The municipalities do not control the construction of new houses and permissions are given liberally and there is hardly any attempt to align houses of proper and similar design in one locality. The municipalities seldom exercise their right to pull down old and damaged buildings. The houses are mostly *katcha* and lack the modern amenities. Darbhanga, Madhubani and Samastipur are the principal towns of Darbhanga district. Each one of them is a good specimen of a lop-sided town which has been allowed to develop in a most unscientific and unsocial manner.

Darbhanga.—In the Great Bihar Earthquake of 1934 the town suffered a great loss. About 311 persons were killed by the falling debris and a large number of buildings were damaged. The then District Magistrate Mr. Freston thought of rebuilding the town and expressed his view to the Commissioner who did not appreciate his idea. Mr. Freston discussed the matter with the Maharajadhiraj who immediately agreed to finance a town improvement trust.

As a result of joint efforts of Mr. Freston and the Maharajadhiraj the Darbhanga Improvement Act was passed in September, 1934 and the Darbhanga Town Improvement Trust was constituted in December, 1934. Mr. T.A. Freston, District Magistrate, became the first Chairman of the Trust.

The life of the Darbhanga Improvement Trust was, however, cut short in 1945 when after making a donation of 7½ lakhs the Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga stopped financing the Trust. The municipality did not give any contribution nor did any other local contribution come in. The Trust was dissolved with effect from the 1st July 1948, vide Government notification no. 4969-L.S.-G., dated the 20th May 1948. It may, however, be mentioned that a large number of schemes had been drawn up which were not taken up. Some of the schemes that were not taken up were Katki Bazar scheme, Barabazar schemes, North Barabazar schemes, Muzaffarpur road scheme, Laheriasarai main road scheme, Makhania tank scheme, etc. There is no doubt that these schemes in some shape or other are bound to be taken up whenever any comprehensive improvement of Darbhanga town is taken up. The Darbhanga Improvement Trust had partially completed Lalbagh New Area scheme no. III and had completed the rehousing scheme no. IV, Station Road scheme no. IX, Harahi Tank scheme no. XI, Lalbagh Extension Area scheme no. XIII, Kathalbari scheme no. XIV. The Trust had taken up the drainage scheme and *Basti* scheme but did not complete them when the Trust was dissolved. Out of an initial donation of 5 lakhs by the Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga, Rs. 2,74,575 was spent towards the cost of acquisition of houses and lands falling in the scheme area, expenditure for the improvement of the area, maintenance of establishment, miscellaneous and contingencies, etc., and the balance was utilised towards the construction of some buildings under a few schemes for which no separate funds were provided. Under the schemes the Oval Market was also constructed by the Trust. The Oval Market was purchased by the municipality.

Darbhanga Town Planning and Development Committee.—The Committee known as Darbhanga Town Planning and Development Committee formed in 1960 had prepared a report regarding the improvement of the town and had forwarded it to the Government. The main recommendations of the Development Committee comprised a number of schemes for conservancy and civic amenities, drainage and sewerage, provision of mechanised conservancy, provision of municipal burning ghats for the disposal of the dead bodies, provision for parks, stands for conveyances, a town hall, fire service, extension of water mains, improvement of roads, etc. All these schemes will mean a very large expenditure and there is no doubt that Darbhanga which now has a Medical College and a large number of other educational institutions, the palaces of the Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga, a very rich library, etc., has

no townscape. Even the main roads are narrow and flanked by ugly huts. The very approach from the railway station at Laheriasarai is depressing and the narrow roads cannot possibly cope with the traffic. The broad gauge railway line has already been brought up to Samastipur and there is no doubt that Darbhanga railway station which is only three miles away from Laheriasarai railway station is bound to be connected by the broad gauge within the near future. The rank of the Darbhanga district within Bihar State from the point of view of urban population is fifteenth. There are great potentialities for industries—large, small and cottage. Two paper mills are going to be set up very soon and there is bound to be a rapid industrialisation once the communications are improved. It is certainly peculiar that the history of Improvement Trust in the State of Bihar begins with Darbhanga but Darbhanga is still without any Improvement Trust. Darbhanga badly needs to be rebuilt to some extent and developed in a planned way and it is understood that Darbhanga Improvement Trust is not unlikely to be established very soon. The Improvement Trust will have to develop not only the town of Darbhanga but tackle the problem of greater Darbhanga including the uplands.

Since the condition of the district headquarters is so primitive, it can be visualised that the other towns of the district should also be very poor so far as planning is concerned. Samastipur is a big railway junction and the headquarters of a railway division. Samastipur is very important commercially and is now on the broad gauge. Samastipur has had a very oblique growth and there has got to be a regular well thought out planning for this town as well.

Gram Panchayat.

History.

The Gram Panchayat or Gram Sabha is an old indigenous institution in some parts of the country. In Bihar also the Village Panchayats existed long before the British Administration although their functions varied in different areas Usually, the Gram Panchayats were more associated with the solution of social problems and were not entrusted with the collection of rent for the Zamindars or for rendering justice—civil or criminal. The tempo of the existence of the Gram Panchayats usually depended on the local Zamindars. It is the Zamindars who were more responsible for the decline of the importance of the Gram Panchayats. The British made direct settlement with the Zamindars and evolved the Permanent Settlement system and the Zamindars became extremely powerful even in the matters of law and order. In the early days of British Administration the Zamindars in Bihar were also entrusted with a part of the Police work and used to maintain Chaukidars and often ran Zamindary Police thanas. With the

institution of the Zamindars and a highly centralised system of administration at the district headquarters, there was very little scope for the functioning of the Gram Panchayats. Even before the British Administration stepped in, the Gram Panchayats had started declining a lot because of the weakness of the ruling power and the increase of authority was really assumed by the Zamindars. The development of the means of communications also did away with much of the importance of the Gram Panchayats. Any aggrieved persons could quickly go to the thana headquarters or to the subdivisional headquarters with their grievances and either the Police or the Magistrate would look into their alleged grievances. All this contributed to the break down of the village community life.

It is doubtful if the Gram Panchayats that existed in Bihar before the British Administration looked after the village sanitation, public health, education, etc. As mentioned before there was a Panchayat of village elders who would occasionally meet and pull up the social delinquents and give a rough and ready justice to some criminal offenders if the parties approached them or were amenable to their orders. The character of the State was of the type of a Police State and the village Chaukidar as the representative of the Police Administration in the village became a very important person. A village Chaukidar had a lot of nuisance value and he could easily implicate others. He was an almost all purpose agent of the Government. If there was to be a census of wells, number of palm trees or livestock, it is the Chaukidar who would be asked to give the figure. It is the Chaukidar who had to report the vital statistics of the village. The Chaukidar again represented the law and order for and on behalf of the administration. It is the overall prestige and power of the Chaukidar that reflected the character of the Police State type of administration. It has to be remembered that in Bihar villages there was no revenue agent of the administration.

Under Act VI of 1870 an attempt was made to associate the Panchayats with the conduct of the Chaukidari system. The provision of the Act was extended to the rural units to seek the co-operation of the villages. But they were mere agencies for the assessment and collection of Chaukidari taxes. There was no other vital link of the village with the administration. As Mr. R.C. Dutt, I.C.S., a great economist, scholar and administrator had observed in his presidential address at the sessions of the Indian National Congress in 1899, there was practically no living touch in the village administration between the rulers and the people and the only link between the administration and the people in civil administration was the hated link of the Police. The Police, as mentioned before was the link even for social matters, educational problems or for the distribution of quinine or for carrying on vaccination. With the great nuisance value of the Police, naturally the people had an allergy against them. That is why Mr. R. C Dutt

had advocated that the Village Unions should be made the real centre of village administration, but Dutt's suggestions were not accepted by the then British Government.

The report of the Royal Commission on Decentralisation in 1909 made the following observations :—

"That the foundation of any edifice which will associate the people with the administration must be the village as being the area of much antiquity than the new administrative creations and one in which people are known to one another. And it is most desirable alike in the interests of decentralisation and in order to associate the people with the task of the administration that an attempt should be made to constitute and develop village Panchayats for the administration of local affairs."

The Commission had suggested a certain allocation of funds out of land cess, of receipts from village cattle pounds to the village Panchayat and recommended the reconstitution of the village Panchayat with powers to try petty civil and criminal cases, to look after minor village works, to control primary schools and to manage fuel and fodder reserves. In 1915, the Report of Bengal District Administration Committee also recommended that Panchayats should be reinvested with the supervision and control of Chaukidars operating within their local jurisdiction and made the following suggestions :—

(*i*) To reform local bodies on the principle of indirect elections beginning from the village upwards.

(*ii*) To entrust local defence to village Panchayats with powers of taxation to meet local needs.

But a long road had to be traversed and many experiments had to be tried before the British Government were driven to the conclusion that the old Panchayats must be resuscitated in some form or another. It was not till 1920 that an earnest effort was made by the provincial Governments to resuscitate the village Panchayats in the light of the broad principles enunciated in the Government of India Resolution of 1915. As a result, in 1920 the Village Administration Act was passed to revive the old institution of the village assembly. It, however, did not make a quick headway.

The Indian Statutory (Simon) Commission in its report published in 1930 appreciated the importance of the village Panchayats and observed that the Panchayat movement had not made marked progress. It mentioned that the village Panchayat was of special interest and importance as being an attempt to recreate the village as a unit of self-Government.

A critical study of the historical factors will show that probably it was not possible for the British Government at its very advent to take steps to revive the village Panchayats. This was so because the very backbone of the village Panchayats had already been shattered due to the preceding weak Government. The realisation that the Panchayats should be revived in some form or the other came to the British administrators quite early but there was a long period of avoidable hesitation. As the administration was a centralised one, they took steps first to introduce Local Self-Government at the urban areas through the municipalities, etc. The Local Self-Government ideas were also introduced through the District Boards and after a certain amount of progress had been achieved in them that they decided to take up the village Panchayats. Certain experimental measures had already been taken before the British administration came to an end on the 15th of August 1947.

The extension of the Panchayats and the wave of enthusiasm with which the elections were fought just before the country got her independence made it quite clear that the villages could no longer be ignored. One of the secrets of the success of the Congress Party was the underlining of the importance of the villages. The early Congress leaders had taken care to shape the citizens of the urban areas. The Congress Movement under Gandhiji took the fight for independence to the villages and the Congress Party was voted to victory in an overwhelming manner in Bihar and in various other provinces through the votes of the villagers. It was felt that without a revival of the Panchayat Raj in some shape or the other, the independence that has been won would have had little significance to the millions living in the villages. The organisation of village Panchayats was made one of the directive principles of State policy in the written Constitution of India. Article 40 of the Constitution lays down that the States shall take steps to organise the village Panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority that they could function as units of Self-Government.

The task of revival of the Panchayats was wisely left to the States and was not made into a Central Subject. The Bihar Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, was passed and received the assent of the Governor-General on the 12th June 1948. This Act partially confirms the recommendations made in the report of the Bengal District Administration Committee in 1915. The Act, however, does not cover all the recommendations either of the Royal Commission on Decentralisation or of the Bengal District Administration Committee. The Bihar Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, cannot be said to be a new product nor can it be said to confer wider powers and duties which are contemplated in 1904 and later on in 1909 by the Royal Commission on Decentralisation and in 1915 by the Bengal District Administration Committee.

The Bihar Panchayat Raj Act was enforced in the district of Darbhanga with effect from the 1st July 1948. At first 23 Panchayats were constituted which began functioning with effect from April, 1950.

Normally, a Panchayat is formed to cover an area which has a total population of 4,000 persons. Usually, the number of villages falling within the radius of two miles are grouped into one Panchayat. The Gram Panchayat is mainly an elective body and is headed by a Mukhiya who corresponds to the President of the schemes proposed in 1904 representing the executive authority of the Panchayats. The Mukhiya is assisted by an Executive Committee consisting of eight members, four of whom are elected and four are appointed by the Mukhiya. While appointing the members of the Executive Committee, the Mukhiya is required to take into consideration the claim of the members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and females. The term of the office of Mukhiya or a member of the Executive Committee would vary from three, four or five years according to the gradation of the Gram Panchayats.

There is a panel of nine *panches* or members with a head known as the Sarpanch. Four *panches* are elected and four *panches* are nominated by a joint meeting of the Sarpanch, elected *panches* and all the elected members of the Executive Committee excluding the Mukhiya.

Election of Mukhiya, Sarpanch, or member of the Executive Committee.—A person is considered disqualified for election, nomination or appointment as Mukhiya or a member of the Executive Committee, Sarpanch or *panch* if such person—

(*a*) is not a subject of India,

(*b*) is in the service of the Central or State Government or any local authority;

(*c*) has been adjudged by a competent court to be of unsound mind;

(*d*) is under twenty-five years of age;

(*e*) does not reside in the Gram Panchayat area for at least one hundred and eighty days in the aggregate in a calendar year, has been convicted by a criminal court, is a leper or a person suffering from tuberculosis or is in the arrears of any tax, toll, fee or rate due from him to the Gram Panchayat.

The Government may remove the Mukhiya or any other member of the Executive Committee for misconduct, incapacity or neglect of duty on the recommendation of the prescribed authority.

There are 44 *Anchals* in this district under which 480 revenue *halkas* or units have been created. Within these revenue *halkas* 739 Gram Panchayats have been formed and 845 Gram Panchayats have been notified till 31st March 1962. Out of 3,016 villages in this district, 2,968 villages have been covered by the notified Gram Panchayat. To cover all the villages, 18 more Gram Panchayats are required to be notified. Out of 739 established Gram Panchayats 627 Gram Panchayats have been entrusted with the rent collection work. The statement given below shows the number of notified Gram Panchayats, number of villages and total population covered—subdivisionwise for the years 1957-58, 1958-59, 1959-60,

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF NOTIFIED GRAM PANCHAYATS VILLAGES AND TOTAL POPULATION, ETC., DURING THE YEARS 1957-58, 1958-59 AND 1959-60.

Name of the district.	Name of the subdivision.	Number of notified Gram Panchayats up to 31st March, 1957.	Number of Gram Panchayats notified during 1957-58	Total number of notified Gram Panchayats up to 31st March 1958 (Total of cols. 3&4.	Number of villages covered by all the notified Gram Panchayats.	Total population covered by all the notified Gram Panchayats.	Number of villages still to be covered by notified Gram Panchayats.	Total population not covered by notified Gram Panchayats.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			1957-58.					
Darbhanga ..	Sadar	214	Nil	214	771	9,49,495	105	1,29,594
	Madhubani ..	270	Nil	270	955	12,05,280	129	1,56,419
	Samastipur ..	276	Nil	276	966	12,31,532	90	98,214
	Total .	760	Nil	760	2,692	33,86,257	324	3,84,227
			1958-59.					
Darbhanga ..	Sadar	214	12	226	858	9,94,999	18	83,090
	Madhubani ..	270	5	275	971	12,24,112	113	1,37,587
	Samastipur ..	276	1	277	970	12,35,644	86	94,102
	Total ..	760	18	778	2,799	34,54,755	217	3,14,779
			1959-60.					
Darbhanga ..	Sadar	226	Nil	226	858	9,94,999	18	83,090
	Madhubani ..	227	Nil	227	970	12,35,644	86	94,102
	Samastipur ..	275	Nil	275	971	12,24,112	113	1,37,587
	Total .	778	Nil	778	2.799	34,54,755	217	3,14,779

SOURCE OF INFORMATION : From Annual Report, Form I.

The District Panchayat Officer, who is a Gazetted Officer, is the administrative head of this institution and works under the superintendence and control of the District Magistrate. He is also under the administrative control of the Director, Gram Panchayats. The District Panchayat Officer manages the work with the assistance of 23 Supervisors, 7 Instructors of Village Volunteer Force, besides 822 Panchayat Sevaks.

Section 26 of the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act provides for the organisation of the Village Volunteer Force in each village under the command of the Chief Officer. There are 676 Chief Officers in this district. All able-bodied males of the village between the age-groups of 18 to 30 are to be the members of the Force. In any emergency the Village Volunteer Force are to protect the village from dacoits, fire, epidemic, etc. Till March, 1962, 7,061 members of the Village Volunteer Force have been trained in this district under the guidance of the Chief Officers. The main functions of the Instructors are to organise night patrolling, and to impart training to Village Volunteer Force. The Panchayat Sevaks are at the lowest level of the Panchayat organisation and are paid Government servants. They assist the Mukhiyas in maintaining registers and statistics, in rent collection and they also function as a bench clerk of the Sarpanch.

Financial Resources.—The Gram Panchayats have been empowered to raise taxes such as professional and property taxes. The other source of income of the Gram Panchayat is the grant sanctioned by the Government. An initial grant of Rs. 50 to each Gram Panchayat has been sanctioned by the Government. 627 Gram Panchayats have been empowered to collect rent on commission basis. In 1961-62 the Gram Panchayats collected Rs. 1,049.09 from property tax against the total demand of Rs. 29,753.70 and received Rs. 5,072.47 as commission for rent collection.

Functions.—Under the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act, 1947 (amended up to 1959) the primary functions of the Gram Panchayat relate to sanitation and conservancy, organising voluntary labour for community work, cleansing and disinfection of sources of water, construction, maintenance, protection and improvement of village roads and maintaining records of vital statistics, the lighting of public streets, primary education, registration of birth and death. The planting of and maintaining trees on the sides of streets, the construction of wells, ponds and tanks, introduction and development of co-operative farming, stores and other trades, establishment of libraries and reading room, organisation and maintenance of *akharas*, clubs and other places of recreational games are some of the important supplementary duties of the Gram Panchayat.

The Darbhanga Collectorate Office maintains final figures for the number of bore hole latrines, number of trench latrines, number

of soakage pits constructed by the Gram Panchayats. They also maintain statements showing the length of roads, number of bridges and culverts constructed by them. The following statements show the work done by the Gram Panchayats during the years 1957-58, 1958-59 and 1959-60 :

STATEMENT I.

Total number of construction since the commencement of the scheme including that of 1957-58, 1958-59 and 1959-60 respectively.

Number of bore hole latrines.	Number of trench latrines.	Number of soakage pits.
3,329	8,894	9,960
4,750	13,180	14,710
6,351	18,026	19,061

STATEMENT II.

Year.	Total mileage of new roads constructed.	Number of new bridges and culverts constructed.	Total mileage of old roads repaired.	Number of old bridges and culverts repaired.
1957-58	79 miles.	49	111 miles	16
1958-59	54 „	45	114 „	54
1959-60	41 „	61	96 „	73

STATEMENT III.

Year.	Number of wells and tanks disinfected and dewded.	Number of new surface wells sunk.	Number of old surface wells repaired.
1957-58	19,042	305	502
1958-59	20,341	164	628
1959-60	21,413	155	681

STATEMENT IV.

Year.			Adult Education.		Number of new schools opened by Gram Panchayats in the year.	
			Number of centres.	Number of persons benefited.	Basic.	High English, Middle English, Upper Primary and Lower Primary schools.
1957-58	..	..	223	8,500	39	200
1958-59	..	..	190	7,834	27	241
1959-60	..	..	197	79,130	27	244

A field investigation was made and the conclusion was not exactly what the figures would indicate. The figures have not been tested and it is doubtful if the figures would be taken to be a true index of the progress of the working of the Gram Panchayats.

A Research Assistant of Gazetteer Revision Section had visited a few Gram Panchayat centres and generally came to the conclusion that sanitation and public health work which are obligatory duties of the Gram Panchayats are neglected. The Gram Panchayats seem to be more interested in taking up contract works than work for sanitation or in connection with the other primary duties. The Nimaithi and Bhowapatti Gram Panchayats selected for investigation purposes did not have any bore hole latrines, trench latrines, soakage pits or any other sanitation measures. It was also found that the collection of rent by the Gram Panchayat has created a problem. Formerly the Karmacharis used to collect rent and several Karmacharis were not honest. When the work of collecting rent was entrusted to a Gram Panchayat, the Karmacharis felt embarrassed and now they are free to give troubles and there is usually a clash between the interests of the Mukhiyas and the office of the Karmachari. The Mukhiya does not seem happy because he has no other person to help in the collection work and he has to do everything himself. Naturally, an honest Mukhiya would like to avoid taking over the task of rent collection. There is also a certain amount of confusion and delay in land mutation work. The Sarpanch has been empowered to look into the papers, make proper enquiry and then to forward the application of the tenants to the Anchal Adhikaries for final disposal regarding land mutation. Unnecessary delay in the disposal of the cases is made

and it is a common complaint of the tenant that he has been deliberately harassed so that he had to satisfy the illegal demands of the office of the Anchal Adhikari. Then again some Sarpanches complain that the Karmacharis usually make a long delay in handing over the necessary papers to the Sarpanch for verification of the details of the application of the tenants.

In the sphere of economic development also there is not much co-ordination between the neighbouring villages or groups of villages. Usually, parochial interests even regulate the construction and repairing of embankments or *bundhs*, construction and repair of village roads.

Administration of Justice.—Gram Cutcheries of the Gram Panchayats have been given certain powers to discharge administration of justice. The first duty of the Gram Cutchery is to try and bring about a compromise Failing a compromise, the Gram Cutchery takes up the trial and it is expected that justice will be given in a cheap, quick and efficient manner. It was expected that witnesses will depose truthfully in the village courts and much of the formalities will be cut out. It was also expected that the function of the Gram Cutcheries for administration of justice would lead to a lesser number of complaints before the Magistrate or the Police. But as a matter of fact, the expectation has not been fulfilled. It has been found that villagers still prefer to go to the Subdivisional Magistrates' courts and this is due to the reason that as the facts of the case are often and almost known in the villages, if a man wants to harass the other party economically he would not file his case before the Gram Cutchery. Usually. people prefer to go to the court of the Magistrate, take the plea that the Sarpanch is related with the other party or has interest in the other party.

There is also a good deal of delay in disposing of the cases by the Gram Panchayats. During the field investigation, it was found that only 39 cases were filed in Bharatui Gram Panchayat from July, 1957 to 1st May 1962 and only three cases have been taken up by the Gram Panchayat from 31st December to 1st May, 1962. Out of 39 cases, two persons preferred appeal and the remaining cases were made to compromise. Three cases filed in the Gram Cutchery were also compromised. Below is the statement showing cases tried and suits disposed of by the Gram Cutchery for the years 1957-58, 1958-59 and 1959-60

STATEMENT A.

Statement showing the cases tried and disposed of by Gram Cutchery during the years 1957-58, 1958-59 and 1959-60.

Year.	No. of notified Gram Panchayats.	No. of Gram Panchayats from where reports were received.	No. of cases filed.	No. of cases pending from previous years.	Total number of cases.	Number of cases disposed of— Compromised.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Disposed of.	No. of cases sent to or called by Subdivisional Officer before judgment.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1957-58	760	706	2,108	140	2,248	1,395	74	90	344	8
1958-59	778	778	2,894	204	3,098	2,169	59	122	414	14
1959-60	778	499	2,594	300	2,894	1,889	53	117	388	13

STATEMENT B

Year.	No. of cases in which appeals against the orders of the bench was preferred to full bench. Pending from previous year.	Preferred during the year under report.	Total.	Compromised.	Allowed.	Modified.	Dismissed.	Pending.	No. of cases entrusted by Subdivisional Officer under section 73 of B.P.R. Act, 1947. Total.	Dismissed.	Modified or allowed.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1957-58 ..	..	72	72	22	15	26	9	..	72	5	3
1958-59 ..	6	60	66	27	22	11	6	..	66	15	14
1959-60 ..	5	55	60	27	20	4	7	2	60	13	12

STATEMENT C.

Year.	No. of notified Gram Panchayats.	No. of Gram Panchayats from where reports were received.	No. of suits filed.	No. of suits pending from previous year.	Total number of suits.	No. of suits disposed of by Gram Cutchery.				
						Compromised.	Decreed.	Dismissed.	Called by or sent to Munsif before judgement.	Pending.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1957-58	760	706	424	56	480	287	77	40	..	76
1958-59	778	778	409	40	449	261	84	36	..	68
1959-60	778	490	392	68	460	268	87	38	5	65

STATEMENT D.

Year.	No. of suits in which appeals against the orders of Gram Cutchery were filed in full bench.									No. of suits entertained by Munsifs under section 73 of B.P.R. Act of 1947.		
	Preferred during the year under report.	Pending for the last year.	Total.	Compromised.	Allowed.	Modified.	Dismissed.	Pending.	Total.	Dismissed.	Allowed or modified.	Total of cols. to 24.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1957-58	15	..	15	7	8	..	.	..	15	.	..	..
1958-59	5	..	5	5	..	..	..	..	5	4	3	..
1959-60	6	..	6	6	..	..	..	..	6	4	8	..

Functions.—The number of Gram Cutcheries in the district is 739. But out of 739 Gram Cutcheries only 499 Cutcheries are functioning and the other Cutcheries constituted after 1959 are not functioning because of some new provisions regarding Cutchery Rules made in the Bihar Panchayat Raj (Amendment and Validating) Act, 1959, which have not been yet brought into force. In the Darbhanga district, the District Panchayat Officer has issued instructions to the Gram Panchayats (established after 1959), vide letter no. 10695761, dated the 21st August 1961, that they will not try cases until the amended Gram Cutchery Rules are published to guide the functions and duties of the Gram Cutchery.

Under section 62 of the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, the Gram Cutchery has been empowered to try the following offences as well as abetment of and attempts to commit any such offence, if committed within its local jurisdiction, namely :—

Sections 140, 143, 145, 147, 151, 153, 160, 172, 174, 178, 179, 269, 277, 283, 285, 286, 290, 294, 323, 334, 336, 341, 352, 356, 357, 358, 374, 379, 380, 381, 403, 411, 426, 428, 430, 447, 448, 461, 504, 506 and 510 (Indian Penal Code).

The Bench is not empowered to take cognizance of any offence under section 379, 380, 381 or 411 of I. P. C. in which the value of the property alleged to be stolen exceeds one hundred rupees or in which the accused has been previously convicted of an offence punishable under Chapter XVII of the Indian Penal Code with imprisonment of their description for a term of three years or upwards.

Power.—A Bench of the Gram Panchayat of the *Pradhan* or *Dwitiya Varga* may pass the following sentence :—

(*a*) Simple imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month;

(*b*) Fine not exceeding one hundred rupees and in default of payment of fine, simple imprisonment for a term not exceeding 15 days.

A Bench of the Gram Cutchery of *Tritiya Varga* Gram Panchayat may impose fine not exceeding fifty rupees and in default of payment of fine, simple imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven days.

The accused is to be taken to the jail by the village Chaukidar and such members of the Village Volunteer Force as the Mukhiya may direct and the Panchayat has to meet the cost of transfer and escort of a prisoner to the nearest sub-jail within the limits of its jurisdiction. Whenever an offender has been sentenced to pay a fine the Sarpanch may take action for the recovery of the fine by issuing a warrant for the levy of the amount by attachment and sale of any moveable property belonging to the offender.

It was reported that sixty-seven Chief Officers from Darbhanga district were deputed to work at Jamshedpur in the labour strike of TISCO in 1958 in order to maintain peace and order. Again, 780 volunteers from the district were deputed for the protection of railway line and other properties in the Central Government Employees' Strike in the year 1960. Out of 198 miles of the railway line in this district, 104 miles of railway line were under the protection of the volunteers. The Government allotted Rs. 5,666 for those volunteer forces as reward.

CHAPTER XIII.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE.

Historical Background.

Not much is definitely known about the very early education system in Darbhanga district. During the Vedic age, there is, however, no doubt that the pattern of education and cultural life was what is usually associated with the Vedic age. Education was common both among boys and girls and the *gurus* did not normally charge fees from the pupils.

Mithila is commonly known for its high *pauranic* influence from the Vedic age. Initiation was made obligatory for the Brahmins. The specialist in Veda recitation was called *srotriya* and the capacity of Veda recitation was considered a very high attainment. The period of studentship was normally twelve years and then followed the post-graduate studies and teaching. The ideal was that the student must be a celibate in thoughts and deeds and should be able to show the qualities of calmness (*Santa*), self-restraint (*Danta*), self-denial (*uparata*) and patience (*Titiksa*). The course was unlimited and included all the branches of knowledge. The household life followed. Learning was not confined to the Brahmins or the professionals only. The story of King Janaka and scholastic discussions with Yagnavalkya is well known. Mithila appears to have been a sort of pilgrimage to the wandering ascetics and scholars. The kings liberally patronised scholarship and their rituals and the sacrifices were always attended by a galaxy of scholars from far and wide.

In later times we hear of the Maithil Philosophers like Gautam and Kapila, Ninu, etc. The rule of Karnata and Oinvara dynasties left their contributions on learning when original books, commentaries and digests were written and compiled. Medical science received a high development. Grammar, rhetorics and literature were highly developed. Bhanudatta Mishra, Ratneshwara, Jyotishwara, Bhagdatta, Prithvidhara Acharya are some of the great scholars that may be mentioned.

There was a set back owing to Turkish invasion but this was followed by a certain incidence of revival as well. Gangeshwar Upadhaya, Chandeshwar Thakur, Jagaddhara, Vidyapati, Shankar Mishra and Vachaspati Mishra are some of the great scholars of the later period. Of all of them, Vidyapati (C. 1304—1448) is a household world in Eastern India. Mithila also made conspicuous contribution to the study of *Mimangsa*. During the reign of Rani Visvasa Devi, king Padmasimha's wife, there was a gathering of *Pandits* or scholars in Mithila, in which different thoughts of *Mimangsa* were discussed. The school of Prabhakara Misra became very popular, which attracted the attention of the

scholars from different parts of the country. Nyaya was also cultivated and developed from the 12th to the 15th century A.D. under the great masters of logic, *Gangesa*, *Vardhmana*, *Paksadhar* and others.

Thus, during the thirteenth, fourteenth and fitfteenth centuries a host of scholars kept up the flow of scholarship and learning in Mithila. Mithila attracted students from different parts of India for advanced and specialised studies in Nyaya or logic and other subjects.

A few words about the system of education at the Mithila University; corresponding to the system of admission at Nalanda or Vikramsila, though a difficult examination by learned *Dvara-Panditas*, Mithila had also instituted a peculiar examination for graduation or completion in study. It was known as *Salaka-pariksa* by which the candidate for graduation had to explain the portion of the page of a manuscript which was pierced by a needle. The candidate was allowed to have his books by his side when the experts took his *viva voce* test. The system of taking a *sadayantra* was comparatively a much more difficult system, for in the latter case the scholar was even required to present himself for examination by the public. The scholar for the *Sadayantra* test could be asked any question on any topic that the people liked. The honour of the classification of Upadhaya, Mahopadhyaya and Mahamahopadhyaya was much coveted.

No account of Maithil intellectual life can be said to be complete without some notices of the cultural relation then existed in early days between Mithila and Bengal. The *Smriti* writers of Mithila considerably influenced and stimulated the later *Smriti* studies in Bengal. Vidyapati influenced Chandidas and others in Bengal. Mithila had close and affectionate affiliation with Nadia which was also a great centre of culture and scholastic studies like Mithila during the period of the Muslim rulers (A.D. 1198—1757). The need for forming a new seat of learning, it is said, was created by the exclusive practice of Mithila not to allow anyone of its students to take from its schools any manuscripts or even notes of the lessons or lectures delivered there. Graduates were allowed only to leave with their diplomas but not with any papers. This peculiar rule naturally confined the learning of Mithila within its own limits and led to a certain degree of dissatisfaction. The implicit a challenge was successfully answered by Raghunath Siromani who first began by instituting a chair of logic in Nadia and broke the monopoly of Mithila in the teaching of that subject.

Along with the chair of logic, there was also at Nadia a chair of *Smriti* which was inaugurated by Raghunandan, the most distinguished jurist of his time. This integration of culture between the two parts of the same region—Mithila and Bengal for several centuries past—marked by their love for Sanskrit learning and regard for old traditions could still be observed when one meets

and discusses with a Maithil Pandit in the interior of Darbhanga district and with a Bengali Pandit at Navadwip or Nadia. There is also a familiarity in their habits, customs and manners.

There were also close cultural ties with Nepal. As a matter of fact, during the early days of Muslim occupation of Eastern India, many scholars of Mithila fled to the Nepal region and carried loads of documents and manuscripts. Some of them stayed back and the manuscripts found their way in the monasteries. Some of the Mithila scholars wrote other manuscripts while they were in Nepal. A large number of the manuscripts discovered in Nepal recently are written in *Tirhuti* (Maithili) scripts. Recently some of these manuscripts have been brought to India and are under study.

Although the intellectual and scholastic attainments in the early past have been indicated there is nothing to suggest that the incidence of education or literacy had percolated to the masses. Casteism and an exclusiveness of keeping scholastic ambitions within limits kept the common men away from education and culture.

It does not appear that there was any regular system of education in the ancient or mediaeval Darbhanga sponsored by the State. The *gurus* or *pandits* for the Hindus and the *fakirs* and the *maulvis* for the Muslims used to teach mostly at their own residence. Such men were usually supported by the gifts of the court, dignitaries and zamindars.

Regarding progress of education, O'Malley in the Old Gazetteer (1907) mentions :—

> "The advance of education among the people has been very rapid since the formation of the district in 1875. In that year there were 201 schools of all classes attended by 4,008 pupils; in 1885 the number of schools had risen to 2,532 and the attendance to 38,958; but there was a decline in the number of both of schools and of pupils in the next decade, the former falling in 1895 to 1,456 and the latter to 29,578. They rose again however by the year 1905 to 1,734 and 45,457 respectively, in other words, the number of children receiving instruction has grown by over 50 per cent during the last ten years, while the schools have increased by nearly 20 per cent; a rate of progress which is sufficiently satisfactory. The percentage of children under instruction to those of school-going age is still, however, only 10.4 and there is approximately one school to every 2 square miles and to every 2 villages. The supervision of these schools is entrusted to an inspecting staff consisting of a Deputy Inspector of Schools, 5 Sub-Inspectors of Schools, 2 Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 14 Guru Inspectors "*

*District Gazetteer, Darbhanga (1907), p. 136.

The general progress of the district for the last fifty years has been somewhat slow but steady. It marked an all-round improvement in the number of institutions and enrolment in recognised institutions for boys and girls in the district.

It has to be mentioned that there is free and compulsory primary education in the area of Darbhanga Municipality.

Apart from the progress in education through the conventional line of teaching, there has also been a good deal of progress in other spheres of education, viz., basic education and social education. A good number of basic schools and social education centres are now functioning in the district. The system of basic education was introduced in the district in 1937 on an experimental basis in Rampur, Madhopatti, Kilaghat and Pusa area. This type of education has in a way revolutionised the very concept of education and has been the cause in introducing a fundamental change in the curriculum of syllabus. Crafts, agriculture, manual work and physical training find an important place in the syllabus. Extra-curricular activities are given prominence.

The scheme for basic education was taken up in the district in 1937. Ever since, the system of basic education has been expanding in the district. In 1950-51 there were 53 senior basic schools, 1 junior basic school and 1 post-basic school. But in 1961 the number of junior basic schools rose to 193, senior basic school 68 and post-basic school rose to 2.

A comprehensive rural uplift programme is sought to be executed through basic schools and social education centres. This programme consists of (1) rural cleanliness, (2) social uplift work, (3) demonstrations of the scientific agricultural and cottage industries development, (4) processes showing how Science may be correlated to these operations with marked success, (5) disinfection of wells, (6) providing social recreation to the communities and developing their aesthetic faculties, (7) utilisation of compost pits, urinals and trench latrines and (8) relief work through *khadi* production. It cannot, however, be said that basic education has been popular or has struck roots in spite of a large sum annually sunk by the State over this.

So far social education is concerned, originally it was started as a mass literacy drive in March 1938. The Mass Literacy Campaign and Adult Education Drive have come to be known as the social education scheme. Through the social educational centres mass is expected to be touched for literacy and general social uplift. The Community Development projects and blocks have taken up this work actively.

It may be noted that there have been certain important changes in the field of education in recent years in the State and Darbhanga has not been an exception. Firstly, the distinction of

Middle English School and Middle Vernacular School has been aboli-shed with the abolition of English teaching at the middle school standard since 1949. Secondly, all the District Boards have been absolved of their responsibility to impart education and this task has been taken over by the State. This scheme was implemented in the district since May, 1954. There has also been another change in the field of secondary education. Higher secondary course was intro-duced in 1958 in the district and about eleven schools have been converted into higher secondary schools. The higher secondary schools will now teach up to the first year standard of Inter-mediate classes and the colleges are to have only three years degree course.

Incidence of Literacy.

Regarding the incidence of literacy, O'Malley in the Old Gazetteer of this district (1907) mentioned that education had made considerable progress in recent years as corroborated by the statistics of the census of 1901. At this census a special return was made of those able to read and write any language, and people of whatever age who could satisfy this single test were entered as literate and those who could not as illiterate. The 1901 census indicated that only 1 female per mille could read and write. The percentage of literate males in 1901 was 7.1 as against 5.8 in 1891 and 3.3 in 1881. This incidence in Darbhanga district was lower than the State incidence where there were 10.4 males and 5 out of every one thousand literates.

The overall percentage of literacy for both males and females in different census years was as follows:—

10.2 (1911), 10.5 (1921), 11 (1931) and 9.20 (1951) and 16.81 (1961).

According to the report of the District Inspector of Schools literacy in the rural areas for 1951 was 94 persons per mille. The corresponding figure for the urban areas is not available but it will not be as low as that. The reasons for disparity are obvious. Though the number of primary schools increased in the villages, only the younger generation benefited from them while the adults who were illiterate or semi-illiterate remained almost where they were in spite of the recently started adult social centres. For the average small cultivator, a young boy is an assistance in the field, and so he will not be very keen for schooling for the boy specially where the school was at some distance from the village. This was all the more true in the case of young girls who could not go long distances unescorted. But there has been some change. In the two Five-Year Plans, a number of schools and social education centres have been started and their number will considerably

increase in the Third Five-Year Plan. The number of literates as given in the Census Report of 1951 was 3,05,339 males and 58,997 females. These figures must have increased in 1961 census.

Table D. VII in the *District Census Handbook of Darbhanga* (1951) gives the district total of livelihood classes by educational standard*. Obviously these figures also include persons of other districts who were found in Darbhanga district on the day of census. The figures are as follows :—

In this table "literates" are the persons who can read and write but have not passed the middle or any higher examination.

Educational standard.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
1	2	3	4
Literates	3,64,336	3,05,339	58,997
Middle Schools	36,104	32,891	3,213
Matriculates, etc.	10,311	9,844	467
Intermediates in Arts and Science ..	2,480	2,419	61
Graduates in Arts and Science	1,515	1,492	33
Post-Graduates in Arts and Science ..	241	232	9
Teaching	755	660	95
Engineering	15	15	Nil.
Agriculture	1	1	Nil.
Veterinary	28	28	Nil.
Commerce..	2	2	Nil.
Legal	192	192	Nil.
Medical	667	647	20
Others	3,848	3,670	178

From the statistics it is apparent that in the technical branches of education like Engineering, Commerce, Agriculture and Veterinary women take little interest. The main career for educated women appears to be that of teachers and doctors. The category 'Others' include those who have passed Hindi examinations, such as, *Prathma*, *Madhyama*, *Sahityaratna*, *Visharad*, etc. On the whole it cannot be said that the picture of literacy and education against the background of the total population is very encouraging.

* *District Census Handbook, Darbhanga* (1951), p. 140.

Education among Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes.

The population of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes in the entire district based on the report of 1951 census (pages 115 to 121 of the *District Census Handbook, Darbhanga* published in 1955) was as follows :—

Scheduled Castes	..	..	..	5,05,928
Scheduled Tribes	..	..	..	983
Other Backward Classes		..	..	6,96,008

The total population of Darbhanga district according to 1951 census is 37,69,534. The population of the three categories alone comes to 31.9 per cent of the total population.*

They are distributed all over the district. For the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Communities the State Government have appointed one District Welfare Officer, one Assistant Welfare Officer and 22 Welfare Inspectors in 1948. These officers have the duty of the spread for education amongst the Harijans, Adivasis and members of other Backward Communities.

To encourage education among the members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Communities the State Government have arranged to give them stipends, exemption from school fees and distribution of book-grants. Stipends and book-grants are allowed to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes through the District Stipend Committee constituted by the State Government for the same purpose for the students reading in middle and secondary schools. Boys reading in colleges are awarded stipends and book-grants through the State and Central Stipend Committee also.

To remove the social disabilities of the Harijans and the other Backward Classes, the State Government passed the Bihar Harijans (Removal of Civil Disabilities) Act in 1947. The Act has not been able to do much as there is apathy on the part of the Harijans to assert their rights. The problem is more social and can only be met by more of social consciousness.

It may be mentioned that the majority of Harijans, Adivasis and Backward Classes belong to the classes of landless labourers and they are quite unable to meet the expenses of education of their children. The State Government decided to bear practically all the expenses of the depressed classes on education. There is

* According to 1961 Census it is understood that Darbhanga has 14.67 per cent of Scheduled Castes out of the total population. The figure for Scheduled Tribes was nil as figures less than 0.005 per cent have been omitted. The figures for castes categorised as Backward Classes are not known. The final figures have not been published but this figure was ascertained from the office of the Census Superintendent, Bihar

one middle residential school at Rusera and about 60 Harijan students are getting free food, cloth and lodging in this school.

The following table supplied by the Education Department gives the data in connection with the progress of special schools for these classes of students :—

SCHOOLS FOR SCHEDULED CASTES.

Years.	Number of schools.	Number of scholars.
1958-59	41	1,459
1959-60	41	1,658
1960-61	41	1,669

SCHOOLS FOR BACKWARD MUSLIMS.

Years.	Number of schools.	Number of scholars.
1958-59	59	1,655
1959-60	63	1,932
1960-61	67	2,142

There is no special school for Backward Hindu community. Besides the above enrolment the number of students in general schools numbered 12,089 including 175 girls in 1960-61. Students belonging to the above classes and to Backward Hindu communities are awarded special scholarships, and book-grants from the Welfare Department. The amount of total stipends granted by the Welfare Department to Scheduled Castes and Backward Muslims are given below :—

SCHEDULED CASTES.

Years.	Number of stipends.	Total expenditure incurred.
		Rs.
1958-59	1,864	1,01,109
1959-60	2,268	1,32,300
1960-61	2,700	1,68,488

BACKWARD MUSLIMS.

Years.				Number of stipends.	Total expenditure incurred.
					Rs.
1958-59	..	..	..	1,109	92,149
1959-60	..	..	..	1,131	1,09,113
1960-61	..	..	..	1,128	1,14,906

There are also general scholarships for which selected pupils of middle and primary schools compete. There are 44 scholarships awarded by the District Board for boys and girls termed as lower primary scholarship valued at Rs. 3 per mensem tenable for two years. Besides, there are merit-*cum*-poverty scholarships numbering 164 for reading in VI to XI class at the rate of Rs. 10 for middle school and Rs. 15 for high school.

Primary education.—Primary schools consist of teaching in classes I to V of the age-group, 6 to 11 years. Primary education is the responsibility of the local bodies having jurisdiction in the area, i.e., the Municipal Board in the town and the District Board in the villages.

Regarding primary education, O'Malley in the Old Gazetteer mentioned that in 1880 there were 507 primary schools with 10,533 pupils in attendance, and the number rose to 1,634 and 28,406 respectively, in 1885, on account of the introduction of a system of payment by results. Consequent upon the strict enforcement between the years 1885 and 1895, of rules prohibiting the recognition of and grant of aid to *pathshalas* having 5 boys only or only such boys as were related to the teachers, the number of schools fell to 811 in 1904 and that of pupils to 21,738, but they rose to 1,190 and 36,773 respectively in 1905. The doubling of the number of pupils attending primary schools was partly due to the grants from public sources having increased from Rs. 14,433 in 1895 to Rs. 38,614 in 1905 and partly to the introduction of the new scheme of vernacular education, which had made the *pathshalas* more attractive. Of 36,773 pupils in primary schools on the 31st March, 1905, 31,329 were Hindus and 5,444 were Muhammadans.

There has been some progress in the incidence of primary education since the time of O'Malley. As the old statistics are not available, the figures from 1951 to 1961 may be looked into.

In the year 1953-54 two important steps with far-reaching consequences were taken. The first is the enforcement of Expansion Improvement Programme Scheme, which helped the problem of the educated unemployed, and established schools in the district on an equitable distribution basis keeping in view the areas and the number of population for whom these schools were meant. The second is the promulgation of the Local Self-Government Amending and Validating Act, 1954, which put an end to the dual system of administration in the field of education to a considerable extent. Before 1954 the primary schools were controlled both by the local bodies and Officers of the Education Department. The powers of the Local Bodies in the matter of payment, etc., were vested with the District Superintendent of Education (Elementary) who was later designated as District Superintendent of Education.

Several schemes, namely, Expansion Improvement Programme, introduction of intensive teaching craft in middle schools were in operation during 1954. The view in general was to permit equal facility to one and all in matter of education. All these factors contributed to a great rise in the number of primary schools during the year 1960 and 1961.

In all respects the primary schools of Darbhanga are similar to those of other districts of the State of Bihar.

The following table supplied by Education Department will show the trend of primary education in the district in the last 11 years.

TABLE.

Years.	Number of Schools.			Number of Scholars			Number of Teachers.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
951 .	1,885	208	2,093	85,151	8,547	93,698	2,975	181	3,156
952 ..	1,957	211	2,168	86,195	9,047	95,242	3,142	177	3,319
953 ..	2,006	211	2,217	94,639	9,325	1,03,964	3,167	184	3,351
954 .	2,098	251	2,349	96,382	9,775	1,06,157	3,186	193	3,379
955 ..	2,148	297	2,445	1,00,398	10,052	1,10,450	3,257	199	3,456
56 ..	2,124	334	2,458	97,336	21,859	1,19,225	3,381	278	3,659
57 .	2,114	336	2,480	1,03,189	25,025	1,28,214	3,511	261	3,772
58 ..	2,214	339	2,553	1,07,269	26,898	1,34,167	3,690	242	3,932
59 ..	2,335	363	2,698	1,36,113	46,611	1,81,724	3,871	346	4,217
60 ..	2,477	371	2,818	1,51,378	46,350	1,97,728	4,039	343	4,382
61 ..	2,657	296	2,953	1,57,455	47,765	2,07,220	4,361	362	4,723

During the First and Second Five-Year Plans there had been great improvement in the primary education in the district. The number of primary schools had increased considerably, upgrading of lower primary schools into upper primary schools had been effected in sufficient numbers, funds had been sanctioned for the construction of new buildings and renovation of existing ones. The scale of salary of teachers had been considerably upgraded.

The scheme of appointment of lady teachers in primary schools was sanctioned and qualified ladies had been appointed in primary schools.

According to the announcement of State Government in 1949, education up to primary stage was made free throughout the State. To compensate the loss of free-income the scale of pay of teachers was revised and higher scales were fixed.

Compulsory primary education had been introduced in Darbhanga Municipality since 1939. The percentage of boys attending school in the Municipal area as compared to the children of school-going age comes to about 28 per cent. The percentage of boys attending this school is not inspiring in spite of the employment of Attendance Officers and proper teachers. No serious efforts have been made to enforce compulsory education. The economic condition of the people of lower income group also stands on the way. Many of the children near about ten years of age are utilised for supplementing the family income.

Middle Schools.—Regarding middle schools, O'Malley had mentioned that the second class of secondary schools consisted of the Middle English Schools i.e., schools teaching up to the Middle Scholarships examination in which English formed a part of the recognised course of studies. The number of these schools increased from 6 in 1880 to 7 in 1885, declined to 4 in 1895, but again rose to 8 in 1905. The attendance similarly declined from 666 in 1885 to 323 in 1895, but rose again to 445 in 1905. All the schools of this class were in the interior of the district. One at Samastipur, though aided by the District Board, was maintained by the municipality, three at Teghra, Rohika and Jogiara were aided by the District Board, and the remaining three at Narhan, Dalsingsarai and Tajpur were maintained by the Narhan estate.

Secondly, the number of Middle Vernacular Schools, i.e., schools teaching up to the Middle Scholarship, but in which the Vernacular was the only recognised medium of instruction and formed the only course of studies, was 22 in 1880, and declined steadily ever since, falling to 12 in 1885, to 9 in 1895 and finally to 6 in 1905. All these schools were situated in the interior of the district, and were maintained entirely by the Darbhanga Raj. Not only the number of schools but also the attendance had been steadily declining, falling to 699 in 1885, to 438 in 1895, and again to 336 in 1905. The constant decrease in the number of schools as

well as in that of the pupils attending them, accompanied, as it had been, by a corresponding rise in the number and attendance of the High and Middle English Schools, conclusively proved a growing preference for English education among the people, a preference which was presumably due both to the intrinsic worth of the latter and to its higher market value, which made parents consider it absolute necessity for their children.

There has been a tremendous change in the incidence of middle schools in the district. The old figures are not available, hence the figures from 1951 supplied by the Education Department may be looked into.

The control of middle schools was entirely transferred to District Board in 1925 but after the promulgation of the Amending and Validating Local Self-Government Act in 1951, the District Superintendent of Education in the district had been made responsible for the control, management and payment to middle and primary schools in Board area. The control of such schools by Local Boards of the respective subdivision did not have a salutory effect and was rightly terminated. A District Education Fund was opened in which the contribution of the District Board and Education Department were pooled together and expenditure incurred. A District Planning Committee was set up with the District Magistrate as President and the District Superintendent of Education as Secretary and members nominated by the Education Department. The Committee was made responsible for the opening of new schools, appointment of teachers and other work relating to the expansion of middle and primary schools in the district.

The following table shows the expansion of Middle Schools during 1951 to 1961.

TABLE

Years.	Number of Schools.			Number of Scholars.			Number of Teachers.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1951	175	4	179	24,459	616	25,075	985	22	1,007
1952	185	6	191	27,379	684	28,063	1,023	34	1,057
1953	196	7	203	24,005	658	24,663	1,046	56	1,084
1954	206	8	214	24,635	735	25,370	1,053	46	1,099
1955	227	9	236	26,604	974	27,578	1,049	55	1,104
1956	228	8	236	27,583	1,901	29,484	1,193	54	1,247
1957	233	9	242	28,605	2,332	30,987	1,193	46	1,239
1958	238	9	247	27,970	2,602	30,572	1,196	41	1,236
1959	264	9	273	37,611	5,655	43,316	1,310	49	1,359
1960	290	8	298	37,712	5,544	43,256	1,457	50	1,501
1961	299	9	308	40,325	6,954	47,284	1,602	51	1,653

SECONDARY EDUCATION

The establishment of Universities in the year 1857 had far-reaching consequences especially on the content, range and scope of secondary education. The Universities dominated secondary schools in every respect. Secondary education instead of being a self-sufficient course preparing students to enter life after completing the course became merely a step towards the Universities and University-colleges with the result that schools could not function with an independent programme of their own.

Certain specific defects grew out of the system of secondary education in vogue during the years 1854—1882, the mother-tongue was completely neglected as a medium of instruction, nothing was done to train teachers for the secondary schools, and the course of study became too academic and unrelated to life mainly because there was no provision for vocational or technical courses. One further defect that had now taken concrete shape was that the Matriculation Examination began to dominate, not only secondary education but even the education imparted in primary schools.

In 1882 an education commission, known as the *Hunter Commission*, was appointed by the Government to report on the whole question of education in the country. The Commission was directed to enquire into the quality and character of the instructions imparted in schools. The great majority of those who used to prosecute beyond the primary stage seldom went beyond the curriculum of the middle, or at the farthest of the high schools. It was therefore of the utmost importance that the education they received should be thorough and so guided that it would be useful to them in their life.

Since it was very costly for the Government to maintain secondary schools it was thought that the entire responsibility of primary education should be taken over, by the Government and the secondary education should be left to private enterprise. The Commission recommended that secondary education should be provided on the grant-in-aid basis and that the Government should withdraw as early as possible from the direct management of secondary schools. In spite of such specific recommendations neither the public nor the Government appreciated the value of the suggestions, with the result that the recommendations were practically ignored

During 1882—1902 there was a considerable expansion in the field of secondary education. It was due partly to the enthusiasm of private enterprise and partly to the system of grant-in-aid.

The system of education in vogue made the problem of unemployment all the more acute as the majority of the students turned down were fit only for soft white collared jobs. Manual labour almost came to be despised and there was not much premium for technical education. The doors of the universities

were thrown open to students irrespective of their merits and the result was after graduation the bulk found themselves without a suitable job.

The Sapru Committee appointed in 1934 by the U.P. Government enquired into the causes of unemployment and came to the conclusion that it was because that the system of education commonly prevalent prepared pupils more for examination and degrees and not for an avocation in life. The Committee observed that the real remedy was to provide diversified courses of study at the secondary stage and to make that stage more practical and complete in itself and more closely related to the vocational requirements of different types of students. At the secondary stage there should be parallel courses offering instructions in technical, commercial, industrial and other vocational subjects.

It was suggested by the Committee to abolish the Intermediate stage and to extend the secondary stage by one year. Vocational training and education should begin after the lower secondary stage. The degree course at the University should extend over a period of three years.

Again the Central Advisory Board of Education at their 14th meeting held in January, 1948, considered the question of secondary education in the country. A resolution was endorsed by the All-India Educational Conference convened by the Hon'ble Minister for Education in January, 1948. In pursuance of these recommendations, the Government of India appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Tarachand, the then Educational Advisor to the Government of India. This Committee made some important recommendations on different aspects of secondary education. In persuance of the recommendations of the Central Advisory Board of Education, the Government of India appointed a University Education Commission in 1948 under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan. The Commission recommended that the standard of admission to University courses should correspond to that of the present Intermediate examination, i.e., after 12 years of the study at the school and Intermediate College. The Commission thought that neither the public nor the Government had realised the importance of Intermediate Colleges in the Indian educational system, and remarked that "Our Secondary Education remain the weakest link in our educational machinery and needs urgent resources". Thus in brief is the history of secondary education in India and it will be seen that from early or in the later half of the 19th century stress has been laid on methods of improving secondary education as it was imparted from time to time.

O'Malley had mentioned that there was no college in the district. The number of High Schools had risen to 5 in 1895 and then to 6 in 1905; there was a corresponding increase in the number of pupils which was 1,005 in 1895 and 1,180

in 1905. Of these six High Schools, four were in Darbhanga Town viz., the Northbrook School, the Darbhanga Raj School, the Sarswati Academy and the Bengali High School, and two were situated in the Subdivisional headquarters, Samastipur and Madhubani. The Northbrook School had 249 pupils, and was maintained at a cost of Rs. 6,400 a year. The Raj School had 264 pupils and was maintained at Rs. 5,860 per annum. The Sarswati Academy had 195 pupils and the annual expenditure was about Rs. 3,450. The Bengali School, which was intended mainly for Bengali pupils and only taught up to the 4th class of a High English School, as a branch of the Raj High School, had 38 pupils on the rolls on the 31st March 1905, the expenditure for the year being Rs. 700. The Watson High School at Madhubani, which had 246 pupils received a grant-in-aid from Government, and was maintained at an annual cost of Rs. 4,860. The Samastipur High School, with 188 pupils, was supported by fees only, which amounted in 1905 to Rs. 3,177. The average cost of educating each pupil was Rs. 25.7 per annum in the Zilla School and Rs. 22.2, Rs. 17.6 and Rs. 18.6 respectively in the Raj School. The Darbhanga Raj used to give monetary support to schools other than the Raj Schools.

There has been an improvement in the incidence of secondary education. The old statistics of secondary education are unfortunately not available. The figures from 1951 to 1961 supplied by Education Department have to be looked into to mark the progress. It may be mentioned that in the second Five-Year Plan Period it was envisaged to convert all the 11 High Schools into Higher and Multi-purpose schools.

The following table shows the expansion of schools for secondary education:—

TABLE

Years.	Number of Schools.			Number of Scholars.			Number of Teachers.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1951	57	1	58	17,030	121	17,151	637	11	648
1952 .. .	60	1	61	17,545	170	17,715	687	13	700
1953	62	1	63	14,601	150	14,751	689	16	706
1954	64	1	65	15,612	161	15,773	689	19	70[illegible]
1955	69	1	70	17,685	195	17,880	652	17	669
1956 . ..	70	1	71	18,817	266	19,083	662	13	775
1957	81	2	83	22,340	587	22,927	893	19	917
1958	79	2	81	23,440	717	24,157	896	15	911
1959	102	5	107	29,678	2,807	32,485	1,065	22	1,087
1960	116	4	120	32,601	2,082	34,683	1,213	19	1,232
1961 .. .	126	4	130	35,940	2,331	38,271	1,421	27	1,448

Higher Secondary and Multi-purpose Education.

The Higher Secondary School is the latest type of institution, where the education imparted is in some cases for a period of 3 years and in some cases that of 4 years, depending upon the period of nature and course of study required for the High Schools in the State. The Higher Secondary Schools have been formed by the addition of one year which is taken from the Intermediate stage of the University.

Under memo. no. 11/54-05/58-E.-1451 dated 8th May, 1958 the State Government accepted the recommendations of the Secondary Education Commission including the conversion of High Schools into Higher Secondary Schools for the introduction of diversified courses in such schools. The Government selected 25 and 22 non-Government High Schools for conversion into Multi-purpose Higher Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools respectively. There is a difference between a Higher Secondary School and a Multi-purpose School. In a multi-purpose school diversified courses are followed and different crafts are taught. The idea is to make it a craft-centred school whereas a Higher Secondary School is not to be made a craft-centred school. The State Government insists on some conditions on the fulfilment of which non-Government Higher Secondary and Multi-purpose Schools will be granted recognition. Some of them are mentioned below :—

(1) There should be justification for the recognition of the school in either category in view of the topography of the area, the strength of the pupils, etc., and the recognition must not create any unhealthy rivalry among the neighbouring schools.

(2) The Managing Committee should be constituted according to the rules in force, regarding admission, rates of tuition fees, transfer, appointment, assessment, etc.

(3) The school should have at least 320 pupils in case it is a four class school and at least 450 pupils in case it is a six class school.

(4) The financial position of the school should be sound with at least Rs. 5,000 in Reserve Fund invested in National Savings Certificates or other Government securities and Rs. 5,000 in General Fund. The school should make regular payment to the teachers according to the approved scales of pay and must introduce the scheme of Provident Fund.

(5) The school should have at least ten acres of land in not more than two blocks of which at least one block of five acres is at the school site. The school providing for Agriculture as a vocational subject group should have at least 15 acres of land.

(6) The school should have a well equipped library.

(7) The school should have an average of 66 per cent of passes at the Secondary School Examination with a good number of first Division passes.

The following schools have fulfilled the above conditions and have been recognised by Government as Higher and Multi-purpose Schools.

Name of Schools.	Date of recognition as Higher and Multi-purpose School.
Northbrook Multi-purpose School, Darbhanga	1959
Sarvodaya Multi-purpose School, Kolhantapatori	1959
L. R. Girls' Multi-purpose School, Laheriasarai	1960
M. L. Academy Multi-purpose School, Laheriasarai	1961
Pusa Multi-purpose School, Pusa	1959
C. Multi-purpose School, Pusa	1959
K. E. Higher Secondary School, Samastipur	1961
Tirhut Academy Higher Secondary School, Samastipur ..	1961
B. T. Higher Secondary School, Kishanpur	1960
Rusera Higher Secondary School, Rusera	1961
Watson Multi-purpose School, Madhubani	1959

The following table will show the progress of Higher Secondary and Multi-purpose School from 1959 to 1961 :—

TABLE.

Higher Secondary School.

Years.	Number of Schools.			Number of Scholars.			Number of Teachers.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1959	2	..	2	739	15	854	35	..	35
1960	1	..	1	911	51	962	25	..	25
1961	3	..	3	1,947	142	2,089	61	..	61

Multi-purpose Schools.

Years.	Number of Schools.			Number of Scholars.			Number of Teachers.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1959	2	..	2	739	15	754	35	..	35
1960	4	1	5	2,056	354	2,410	84	12	96
1961	4	1	5	2,129	392	2,521	89	17	106

HISTORY OF IMPORTANT SCHOOLS.

K. E. Higher Secondary School, Samastipur.—This school was established in 1890 in Samastipur by late Sri Nagendra Sen, a prominent man of that locality. In 1890 it had 200 students and 10 teachers. In 1961, there were 832 students including 75 girls and 22 teachers. Co-education was introduced in 1954. It has also N.C.C. and A. C. C. units. Junior Division N. C. C. was introduced in 1948 and A. C. C. in 1950. The school has a good library. In 1960 this school was converted into Higher Secondary School.

Watson Multi-purpose Higher Secondary School, Madhubani.—This school was started in 1901 in Madhubani. In 1901 it had 150 students and 7 teachers. In 1961 it has 479 students and 17 teachers. There is also a Social Education Centre, Junior Division N. C. C. and A. C. C. in this school. It has a good library. This school was converted into Multi-purpose Higher Secondary School in 1959.

Northbrook Multi-purpose School, Darbhanga.—This school was established by the Government in 1886 and was known as the Zilla School. Co-education is also prevalent in this school. In 1961 it has 693 students including 37 girl students and 27 teachers. It was converted into a Multi-purpose School in 1959.

L. R. Girls' School, Laheriasarai.—This school was started in 1943 after the name of Lady Rutherford, the wife of the Governor of Bihar. It is under the direct management of State Government. Girls are also given training in sewing, tailoring, drawing, painting, embroidery and carving. In 1961 it has 374 students. It was converted into a Multi-purpose School in 1960.

M. L. Academy, Laheriasarai.—This school was started in 1901 in Laheriasarai. In 1961 it has 878 students and 20 teachers. There are Junior Division N. C. C. and A. C. C. units. It was converted into Higher Secondary School in 1961.

Shafi Muslim High School, Laheriasarai.—This school was started in 1934. It has 415 students and 17 teachers.

Marwari H. E. School, Darbhanga.—This school was established in 1916. It has 701 students and 24 teachers. There are Junior Division N. C. C. and A. C. C. units.

Raj High School, Darbhanga.—This school was established in 1878. In 1961 it has 779 students and ten teachers. Junior Division N.C.C. and A. C.C. units have been started in the school.

Collegiate Education.—In 1961 there are fifteen colleges in the district. All the colleges are affiliated to Bihar University with

headquarters at Muzaffarpur. There is a Law College attached to Chandradhari Mithila College, Darbhanga. The history of some of the important colleges is given below.

Chandradhari Mithila College, Darbhanga.—It was established in 1938. The Darbhanga Municipality gave the college a building on a lease for 99 years on a nominal rent. The college is a deficit grant college and the State Government meets the entire deficit.

In 1938 it was started with Intermediate classes in Arts. At that time there were only 87 students and 8 lecturers in the college. In the same year it was affiliated to Patna University. In 1941 Sri Chandradhari Singh gave a donation of Rs. 51,000 and the college was named "Chandradhari Mithila College". In 1941 science teaching was introduced in the college. The affiliation was raised to the Degree standard. At present it imparts education up to the Degree standard in the faculty of Arts, Commerce and Science. The college started Honours teaching in 1946 in English. Now the college has started Honours in almost all the subjects in Arts and Science. With the starting of four Universities in 1960 the college stands affiliated to the Bihar University. At present (1960-61) there are 2,741 students including Science, Arts and Commerce subjects and 90 lecturers. The number of students is unwieldy and there is not much of scholastic environs.

The expenditure of the college is met by the Scholars' fee, Government grant, University grant and also from the income which comes from the property given to the college by the founder Shri Chandradhari Singh in whose name the college bears. The college has a good library and five hostels which accommodate 300 students. The National Cadet Corps of the college came into being from 1949. The total number of cadets so far (1961) enrolled and trained has been 1,500. The college has extensive playgrounds. There is a Common room named after Sir Kameshwar Singh, i.e., Darbhanga Maharaj. The college has acquired an area of 15 acres of land for its development.

Samastipur College, Samastipur.—The college was established in 1947 with the efforts of the Subdivisional Magistrate Sri Balram Singh and the merchants who had donated liberally for the purpose. The college is situated at Jitwarpur about four miles from Samastipur Railway Junction. The college was affiliated to Old Patna University in 1949 up to the Intermediate standard in Arts and then up to Degree standard in Arts in 1953. The college started teaching in Science up to the Intermediate standard in 1955 and up to Degree standard in 1960. The college has two hostels. At present (1961) the total numerical strength of the students is 1,638 and there are 42 lecturers. The number of lecturers is apparently much too small and there is not much of student-teacher relationship. A senior division N. C. C. unit has also been started.

Ram Krishna College, Madhubani.—The college was started in 1941 as an Intermediate college through the munificence of the late Ram Krishna Purbey, a businessman of Madhubani town. It remained an Intermediate college till 1946 and in July, 1947 it received the status of a Degree college and I. Com classes were also started. The college is now affiliated up to Degree course in Arts and Commerce. A few years back it was affiliated to Bihar University. The college has its own building, Common room and a library. In 1951-52 the number of students on the roll was 346 ; in 1952-53 it increased to 406 ; in 1953-54 the strength was 450 and in 1960-61 the number has increased up to 1,721 and 35 lecturers. The number of lecturers is far too small for the large student population. The college is situated on about 13 bighas of land to the north-west of the town. The college maintains two hostels and accommodate about 80 students. A senior division unit N. C. C. was also introduced in the college. It has a good playground. There are also some girls reading in the college. Co-education in this college in the centre of *maithil* culture is a landmark.

Marwari College, Darbhanga.—The college was established by the Marwaris in 1959 in the Marwari School building. There is co-education in the college. The teaching is in Arts only and it is affiliated to Bihar University up to B. A. standard. The strength of the students during 1960-61 was 585 and twenty teachers.

Millat College, Darbhanga.—The college was started in July, 1958. It is affiliated to Bihar University and teaches Arts course up to B. A. standard. In 1960-61 the strength of students was 500 and 15 lecturers. The majority of the students are of Muslim community. Owing to financial circumstances the college is not improving. It is unfortunate that either the colleges have far too large a number of students with sections of far too many boys or they are financially handicapped. A college with more than 1,000 boys will necessarily lack much of what a college connotes. The conduct of research in these colleges of Darbhanga has been practically nil. Tutorials in the proper sense of the word are seldom held and none of the colleges is a residential one.

Basic Education.—The object of Basic education system at the elementary stage is to impart education through socially useful production activities like spinning, weaving, gardening, carpentry, leather work, book craft, domestic craft, pottery, elementary engineering, etc. It was introduced in the district in 1937 and Basic Schools were started at Rampur, Madhopatti, Kilaghat and Pusa. Since the main demand on the resources of the country available for education is for the expansion of educational facilities for the children of the 6-11 age group efforts in the field of basic education are confined at present to introducing in the non-basic primary schools such important features of basic education as do not entail heavy expenditure. Orientation programmes for education officers

and primary school teachers are being implemented to reduce the differences to the extent possible, between basic and non-basic schools. All the Teachers' Training Institutions for elementary school teachers are being progressively converted to the basic type.

Post-basic schools have been started to enable pupils who have been educated in the junior and senior Basic Schools to continue their Secondary Education along the basic lines. Since these institutions have been established by voluntary organisation and their syllabus and curriculum are different from those of the traditional secondary schools students who pass out of these schools meet with difficulties both in pursuing their higher studies and in securing employment. It is difficult to say that the system of Basic Education has made a lasting and wide contribution. It is still in an experimental stage.

The Basic Institutions are controlled by the District Education Officer, whereas the Deputy Superintendent of Basic Education, supervises the Basic Institutions and is the technical adviser to the District Education Officer. This district had 53 Senior Basic Schools and Junior Basic Schools during 1951. The total enrolments were 6,578 boys and 610 girls in Senior Basic Schools and 111 boys and 39 girls in Junior Basic Schools. All these schools were State managed. With the advent of an implementation of the Expansion Improvement Programme Scheme in 1953-54 some traditional schools were also converted into Basic Institutions and some new Basic Schools were also started. This gave rise to the number of Basic Schools. It is difficult to get the proper type of teachers for such schools and most of the scholars are attracted by the stipends and have not given any remarkable contribution to the cultural progress of the district. The financial drain on the State exchequer for continuing this system of education has been very considerable and many eminent educationists and public men have expressed their diffidence in the way the Basic education is being imparted.

The following table will show the expansion of Basic Education institutions which includes Senior Basic, Junior Basic and Post-basic Schools in the district :—

TABLE.

Years.	Number of Schools.			Number of Scholars.			Number of Teachers.		
	Junior Basic.	Senior Basic.	Post-Basic.	Junior Basic.	Senior Basic.	Post-Basic.	Junior Basic.	Senior Basic.	Post-Basic.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1951 ..	1	53	1	111	7,197	147	8	282	10
1952 ..	1	53	1	99	7,071	130	8	280	10
1953 ..	10	54	1	433	7,369	142	45	290	12
1954 ..	2[illegible]	54	1	746	7,410	132	73	292	11
1955 ..	59	56	1	2,459	7,954	141	145	400	13
1956 ..	152	61	1	9,511	8,869	165	241	403	13
1957 ..	175	62	2	10,797	8,763	317	366	414	13
1958 ..	197	62	2	11,246	8,655	341	356	417	20
1959 ..	197	68	4	12,056	11,555	416	375	415	23
1960 ..	197	64	4	13,488	12,650	612	371	449	27
1961 ..	193	68	2	11,628	14,634	362	381	502	32

Professional Education.

Teachers' Training Schools form the most important wing under professional education.

In 1950-51 a re-orientation of the system of teachers' education was found necessary and the courses were modified so as to bring them nearer to the Basic system of education. The Elementary Training Schools were re-named as Junior Basic Training Schools.

The training period of Junior Basic Training School was extended for one year to two years. In addition to the above a Senior Basic Training School was also opened at Pusa in 1950-51 where two years' course was implomented from the very beginning. Candidates with the minimum qualification of a pass in the middle standard were admitted in Junior Schools while matriculates were admitted in the Senior Basic Training Schools. The Pusa Senior School was placed under the Divisional Superintendent of Basic Education and was meant to turn out teachers for employment in Basic Schools. In 1961 the distinction between the Senior and Junior Training Schools was removed. All the schools were named as Teachers' Training Schools.

The following table will show the progress of professional schools in the district :—

TABLE.

Years.	Number of Schools.		Number of Scholars.		Number of teachers.	
	Senior Training Schools.	Junior Training Schools.	Sr. Training Schools.	Jr. Training Schools.	Sr. Training Schools.	Jr. Training Schools.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1951	1	2	94	100	8	4
1952	1	2	85	90	8	4
1953	1	2	97	101	8	6
1954	1	3	101	113	8	11
1955	1	4	115	291	8	16
1956	1	3	182	292	5	14
1957	1	3	131	268	10	17
1958	1	3	416	223	18	16
1959	1	4	102	248	8	25
1960	1	5	146	550	0	27
1961	1	7	205	1,172	10	43

Education for the Handicapped, Deaf, Dumb and Blind.

A school for blind children was established in 1940 and was running under Priya Poor Home, Darbhanga. During 1953-54 the school had two teachers and the number of students was 10. There are now (1961) 3 teachers and 19 boys. It receives grant of a sum of Rs. 2,000 from State Government and non-recurring grants from the District Board and Darbhanga Municipality. The School is now recognised up to the Upper Primary Standard. An attempt to run a Blind school is laudable. The school has not received much support yet. There are no schools for deaf, dumb and orthopaedically handicapped students in the district.

Social Education.

During the First Congress Ministry from 1937 a mass literacy campaign had been started from the Education Department. This scheme was not much of a success in spite of a large drain of money. With the resignation of the Congress Ministry there was a set back in whatever was being done. From 1948 a comprehensive scheme has been again sponsored by the State Government to spread literacy and to make the common man's life pleasant and useful. Centres for imparting literacy and recreations, libraries and imparting general knowledge with audio-visual aids etc. have been linked up with the Community Development Blocks throughout the State. There are youth organisations for both boys and girls. The centres are expected to hold literacy class, community recreations, music, demonstrations for village welfare work. Particular attention is expected to be paid to the women folk in the village to make them useful mothers and sisters and citizens. Most of the centres are in the school buildings or in the Office of the Gram Panchayats or Co-operative Societies The State Government are spending a very large sum on these centres for books, musical instruments, equipments, etc.

Social education scheme was considerably reorganised first in 1950, and subsequently in 1952.

The seven principal items of social education programme in this State are as follows :—

(1) Literacy of adults and education of children deprived of normal education in Schools, (2) Individual and Community cleanliness, (3) Health, sanitation and medical aid, (4) Recreation and culture, (5) Campaign against social evils, (6) Economic improvement, and (7) Publications and publicity.

The following figures will show the expansion of adult education or social education centres in the district for the last twelve years.

Years.	No. of centres.	Enrolments.	Teachers.
1949-50	43	4,810	43
1950-51	45	3,524	45
1951-52	132	9,170	132
1952-53	147	10,170	147
1953-54	140	11,991	140
1954-55	167	12,034	161
1955-56	269	12,309	269
1956-57	313	16,739	313
1957-58	344	18,419	344
1958-59	382	19,321	382
1959-60	402	22,621	402
1960-61	415	30,408	415

The figures for the centres and the enrolment have been supplied by the Education Department.

Physical Education.

Drills and gymnastics have been a regular feature in the schools and colleges since a long time past. Outdoor games as a part of physical education have always been emphasised. Since 1956 under the patronage of State Government a number of *Vyayamshalas* and *Akharas* have been opened to encourage physical training among the adults as well. Physical Instructors in school staff are insisted upon. Physical training is also imparted in the girls schools where provisions for games are liberally encouraged. The A. C. C. and N. C. C. units, boy scouts and girl guides have been liberally helped by State Government particularly for the physical training that is given. The District has a Deputy Superintendent of Physical Education to look after the physical education programmes in the educational institutions, *Akharas* and *Vyayamshalas*.

Auxiliary Cadet Corps and National Cadet Corps.

Military training is sought to be imparted to the students under the management of the 8th Bihar Battalion National Cadet Corps with headquarters at Darbhanga. The movement of N. C. C. was sponsored in 1948. The Senior Division of N. C. C. is meant for college students while the Junior Division is meant for school students. There are N. C. C. units in C. M. College, Marwari College, Samastipur College and R. K. College, Madhubani. On July, 1961

the total number of cadets in these colleges was 547 which shows that there is still a wide scope for the progress of the movement. There are A. C. C. units in several schools of the district.

The main aim of the National Cadet Corps is to develop ideas of comradeship, service and leadership in young men and women. Another aim is to provide service training to youngmen and women and building up a reserve of potential defence. Parades and frequent camps are held to keep the cadets in form.

Scouts and Girl guides.

Till 1942 there were two district associations, one under the Scout Association and the other under the Hindustan Scouts, running separately. In 1950 both the associations were amalgamated at a higher level and they merged in the district also. It is now functioning as the Bharat Scouts and Guides Association. Regular training is given and frequent camps are held. The scouts and the guides are particularly trained to serve the country and with this object they are utilised in the *melas* and fairs to check rowdyism, rescue the lost children and to control the crowd.

Libraries.

It is unfortunate that quite a number of private libraries consisting of valuable *pothis*, manuscripts and old books in Sanskrit have now been lost to us. The decline of the social value of the Sanskrit and Maithil *Pandits*, the ravages of the rivers and floods, want of knowledge for the proper maintenance of manuscripts and books are some of the causes for the loss of libraries. About half a century before there was regular hunt for the poems of the Maithil poets and particularly Vidyapati and a number of scholars from Bengal who walked miles of village roads and waded through rivers were able to collect a number of manuscripts of Vidyapati's poems which found their way in various libraries in Calcutta and elsewhere. Many of such manuscripts were thereby saved from fading away. The Darbhanga Raj spent a large amount of money in collecting many such manuscripts, old books and records. They are now luckily preserved in Darbhanga Raj Library which is one of the richest libraries in the State today It is gathered that there are still some old families in Darbhanga district who have got manuscripts and old books. Excepting Raj Darbhanga no other Zamindar or middle class family appears to have attempted to build a proper library for public use. Strange allergy in many such families to expose the books in public gaze is also responsible for their oblivion. Probably a systematic hunt even now might yield the find of valuable books in Sanskrit and Maithili.

At the moment the State is almost the only patron for public libraries. The schools and colleges have also been entrusted with

the task of building up proper libraries but excepting one or two institutions such libraries are rather poorly equipped. In 1961 there were 466 libraries in the district out of which 361 libraries receive grant from the State Government. The State Government has adopted Lakshmeshwar Public Library as the District Central Library. Lakhshmeshwar Public Library has its own building and about 43,208 books. During 1960-61 the attendance in the reading rooms was 21,000. This library was established in 1919 to commemorate the late Maharaja Sir Lakshmeshwar Singh Bahadur of Darbhanga. In 1954 it was adopted by the State Government as the District Central Library.

The Darbhanga Municipality runs a small library known as Kamla Nehru Library established in 1936. In 1961 it had 5,551 books. The number of daily readers ranges from 100 to 150. This library receives a grant from Government and from Darbhanga Municipality.

The Darbhanga Raj Library is a private property of Darbhanga Raj founded by the late Maharajadhiraj Sir Lakshmeshwar Singh Bahadur. The institution went on collecting many old and rare manuscripts and books in various languages. The Maharajadhiraj used to be approached by many authors and he would buy a number of copies of the book. The library has one of the richest collections of old magazines, reviews, books, documents, in various languages. The collection of old books and manuscripts in Maithili, Sanskrit, Hindi and English is extremely valuable and continue to be the source materials for researches.* The same tradition of buying and collecting books has continued and there is now about 70,000 books in the library besides manuscripts and documents. The library is housed in a portion of Darbhanga Raj Office building. Although privately owned, the Darbhanga Raj allows scholars to study books in the library. The collection of English books on various subjects particularly those published in the 17th and 18th centuries cover a variety of subjects. The Sanskrit section has been made over to Kameshwar Singh Sanskrit University formed in 1960.

A local investigation in Darbhanga and Laheriasarai discloses that not more then 100 persons visit the libraries. This daily number is extremely poor and shows that the libraries are not popular. The libraries in the *muffassil* are poorly equipped and little patronised. Many of them are reported to be semi-private libraries that have managed to get State grant.

On an analysis of books in demand it is found that novels, dramas, illustrated magazines have a larger circle of readers. Newspapers in English and in vernaculars are in demand in the urban areas. Language papers are also read with interest in the villages. But it cannot be said that any large percentage of educated public that can afford reads newpapers regularly.

*Very little use, is, however, being made of the source materials here (P.C R C.)

Museum.—The Chandradhari Museum, now a State Museum of Government of Bihar owes its origin to Shri Chandradhari Singh, a member of the family of Maharaja of Darbhanga who had developed a fascination to collect relics. The collection gathered by him was most varied. He collected a large number of manuscripts coins, stones, ivory pieces, painting on mica, old arms and handicrafts etc. There are about 10,000 exhibits which he donated entirely to this museum. In 1957 the State Government decided to take over this museum from Shri Chandradhari Singh.

Oriental Schools (Sanskrit Education).

The *tols* of Sanskrit learning in this district had from a distant period, enjoyed grants of land on which their teachers and the taught subsisted. The zamindars and rich cultivators discharged a part of their social obligations by giving such grants. The medium of language taught in the *tols* was Sanskrit, and the subjects were usually grammar, poetry, rhetoric, logic and to a less extent astrology, philosophy, law and medicine. Usually the teachers in the *tols* were Brahmins except those in which medicine was taught. *Vaidyas* and *Kabirajas* of communities other than the Brahmins taught there. The system of the division of pupils into classes was not rigidly enforced but where the same lessons were received by several pupils they formed a class by themselves and helped one another. The *Gurus* generally taught the advanced pupils, who in their turn taught their juniors. The pupils in *tols* paid no fees. On the other hand the *Gurus* often gave them monetary help. The *Pandits* were always given gifts of grains, cloth, ghee, etc., in any village festivity or family celebrations.

The Darbhanga Raj used to spend about Rs. 20,000 a year for the encouragement of Sanskrit learning from a long time st. The Darbhanga Raj maintained a body of Sanskrit scholars called *Raj Pundits*. They constituted a highly respected body of academicians and held annually an examination in different branches of Sanskrit learning and awarded certificates and diplomas. The highest award was a *dhoti* (a piece of cloth) which was coveted by the most distinguished Sanskrit students and was held in higher esteem than the diplomas of the examination of Government Sanskrit Colleges. The Darbhanga Raj had been the traditional fountain head of Sanskrit learning in Bihar. The Maharaja Bahadur Lakshmeshwar Singh Bahadur, K.C.I.E. and his brother and successor Maharajadhiraj Sir Rameshwar Singh, K.C.I.E. had given their liberal patronage to Sanskrit learning. This tradition has been continued by the present Maharajadhiraj Kameshwar Singh in spite of the general decline of the prestige of Sanskrit learning. He has recently taken a good deal of interest in the finding of the Sanskrit University at Darbhanga and has made liberal gifts to achieve the object.

By Resolution no. 781-E, dated the 23rd February 1914 Government appointed a committee to consider the question of the development, improvement and control of institutions of indigenous Sanskrit studies that existed in the province of Bihar and Orissa.

The committee recommended that as Bihar and Orissa formed a separate province it was undesirable that it should remain subordinate to an organisation in Bengal and that as it was only for administrative reasons that the control of Sanskrit education in Bihar was centred in Calcutta, a separate association called "The Bihar and Orissa Sanskrit Association" was formed in 1914 to consist of a convocation of 100 to 200 members and a Council of 18 members which were called the Sanskrit Convocation and Sanskrit Council respectively.

The Bihar and Orissa Sanskrit Association had tried to improve the teaching of Sanskrit in *tols* by introducing the vernacular language into the course of studies and Government helped by treating Sanskrit *pathsalas* as 'primary schools'. While this move was an aid to the spread of Sanskrit education, it also diluted the rich Sanskrit learning which was previously sought to be imparted. Some easier Sanskrit distinctions were created by the conferring of titles for passing Sanskrit examination.

O'Malley in the previous Gazetteer of this district (1907) had mentioned that there was no special school in the district prior to 1882, when the Madhubani Sanskrit school with 59 pupils was for the first time entered in the departmental returns. The Madhubani Sanskrit school received a Government grant of Rs. 20 a month and prepared candidates for the first and second Sanskrit examinations and the Title examination. The school had three *pandits* on the staff, the cost of the establishment being Rs. 125 a month, of which Rs. 105 was met from subscription. The majority of the students of the schools were Brahmins, and all of them were free students.

There has been an expansion of Sanskrit education since the time of O'Malley but the declining material value of the other type of education has naturally stood on its way of progress.

The following figures supplied by the Education Department will show the expansion of Sanskrit *tols* in the district:—

Year.	Number of Sanskrit tols.	Number of scholars.	Number of teachers.
1951	58	1,915	263
1956	94	3,074	267
1961	98	3,839	295

With the creation of the Sanskrit University in 1961 with headquarters at Darbhanga, it is expected that there will be some revival of the ancient tradition of Darbhanga district for Sanskrit education.

Mithila Research Institute.

Mithila Institute for Post-Graduate Studies and Research in Sanskrit learning was established in 1951 at Patna but in August, 1952 it was shifted to Darbhanga.

The following table will show the number of students in the last ten years:—

	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959-60.	1960-61.	1961-62
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
M.A., 1st year ..	27	9	8	27	11	5	12	11	15	6
M.A., 2nd year ..	..	21	6	6	2	6	4	9	5	6
M.A., 3rd year ..	..	..	20	6	6	6	7	6	10	12
Ph. D., 1st year ..	1	4	1	5	4	3	3	3	4	..
Ph. D., 2nd year ..	..	1	4	3	2	2	4	2	4	..
D. Lit., 1st year ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
D. Lit., 2nd year ..	..	..	..	1	.	..	..	..	..	..
Total .	28	35	40	48	25	22	31	31	38	24

The statistics are, however, not very inspiring generally. Very little research work has been done so far and the main aim of the Institute is not to turn out some M. As. in Sanskrit only for which the Universities have ample provision.

The staff of the Institute consists of four *Pundits* and eight Professors. *Pundits* are used to help both the Professors and students in their special branches, though they could not for obvious reasons, be interested with regular teaching of the M. A. Classes. The Institute has a library with a good collection of books and manuscripts.

There has been an arrangement for teaching French at the Institute and all the research students are required to study one European language, French or German at the Institute and all M.A. students are required to get an elementary knowledge of Pali and Prakrita.

In order to give training to the staff and students of the Institute in research methods, a scheme for the compilation of a critical edition of the Mahabharata has been taken up. Old manuscripts are being offered for preservation as well as for sale. The Government of Bihar has allotted Rs. 20,400 for 1961 for expenditure. The Institute is a landmark but, unfortunately, its environs are somnolent and the Institute has not made any clear impact yet on the culture of the district and the State.

Muhammadan Education.

Regarding Muhammadan Education it may be mentioned that the first educational institution that the first Governor-General of the East India Company established was the Calcutta Madarsa in 1781, in which Muhammadan learning was supported in accordance with the custom of the country by the grant of stipends to the pupils and salaries to the Professors.

In Bihar the only Madarssa which has a connected history and was well housed and well endowed was the *Khankah Madrassa* of Sasaram.

In Darbhanga district as elsewhere there was usually a *maktab* attached to every mosque. The *Mullahs* or *Khatibs* attached to the mosque and some of the students lived there and studied. Well-to-do Muslims, Kayasthas, Rajputs and Bhumihar Brahmins kept the *maulvis* or muslim teachers at their own houses for the education of their children. The *Maulvi* was paid by the owner of the houses about Rs. 4 or so a month and provided with board and lodging. The *Maulvi* was allowed to take as many students as he could teach, and they paid him from 4 annas to one rupee a month. It has to be mentioned that there are a number of Muslim pockets in the district and a concentration of Muslims in Darbhanga and Laheriasarai towns and the traditional *maktabs* were continued in such muslim pockets even when the Hindus, for some reason or other, almost gave up the study of Urdu and Persian. But the teaching in the *Maktabs* was confined to a general and almost primary education. Students who wanted to make advanced studies in theology, medicine, poetry, etc., used to go to savants in those lines and often migrated to other parts of the country. Muslim theologians paid occasional visits in the past when students would gather round him. Poetry was encouraged by *Mushairas* or assembly of poets where *impromptu* poems were recited. Hindu scholars and writers in Urdu and Persian were quite common about fifty years back.

O'Malley in the old Gazetteer of this district (1907) mentioned that in the year 1885 the number of Muhammadans in all classes of schools was 8,667 and their percentage to the total number of scholars was 22.2. With the general decline in the total number of

pupils of all denominations between 1885 and 1895, the number of Muhammadan pupils decreased in 1895 to 4,930 and their percentage to the total number of scholars fell to 16.6. When in 1905 the attendance of pupils of all denominations increased, the number of Muhammadan pupils increased to 7,497 but the percentage remained almost the same, viz. 16.5. As a rule, secular instruction was not very popular among the Muhammadans and they were generally slower than the Hindus to grasp the advantages of education; but considering that the percentage of Muhammadans to the total population was 12.11, it appeared that in Darbhanga they were more eager than the Hindus give their sons a modern type of education.

There has been some progress in the incidence of Muhammadan education since the time of O'Malley. The teaching in Muhammadan Institutions is based on the age old indigenous pattern and basic Urdu, Arabic and Persian are taught in such schools.

The following table supplied by Education Department will give the progress in the number of *Madrassas*, scholars and teachers in the district:—

Year.	Number of Madrassas.	Number of scholars.	Number of teachers.
1951	2	64	4
1956	12	1,476	48
1961	15	2,586	67

The above table shows that there has been progress in the number of *Madrassas*. The institutions receive grant from the State Government.

CHAPTER XIV

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

Survey of Public Health and Medical Facilities in early times.

Mr. W. W. Hunter in "Statistical Account of Bengal, Volume XIII (Tirhut and Champaran)", published in 1877 mentions as follows:—

"*Native Medical Practitioners.*—The *Hakims* and *Kabirajs* use specific remedies of their own, but also put great faith in *pujas* and charms. They prescribe their medicines in the shape of pills, emulsions and powders, in order to avoid giving water. Their doses are large and composed of many ingredients. Mercury they use very freely. Their theory is that all diseases are due either to vitiated phlegm, bile or nervous influence. Thus diseases of the throat and respiratory organs are put down to vitiated phlegm; while stomach complaints such as jaundice, hepatitis are ascribed to vitiated bile and so on. Their remedies are classed as anti-phlegmatic, anti-bilious and anti-nervous. As a rule, they object to tell what their practice is. Many of them are well-to-do. When called in to see a case, they often demand a fee in advance, and if a cure is effected, something is added to this, but if no relief is given, nothing more is paid. Their practice is based on Sanskrit and Persian medical works."

There have been many changes in the medical field and due to these reasons more people have become allopathic minded.

The early British administration introduced the allopathic system of medicine and modern surgery. Hospitals and dispensaries were opened in the urban areas first and then these institutions were spread in the interior. With the introduction of Local Self-Government, maintenance of public health became a major duty of the District Board and a number of rural dispensaries came to be opened. There was a lot of antipathy on the part of the people to take to the modern system of allopathic treatment and it was difficult to push in an injection or to make an operation decades before. But now the craze is to get an injection for a quicker cure. The British administration also gave a certain amount of encouragement to the indigenous systems of medical treatments, namely, *Kaviraji*, *Unani* and Homoeopathic. This encourgement has got a spurt since the country became independent.

Vital Statistics.—The system of registration of vital statistics in Bihar is regulated by the Bengal Birth and Death Registration Act of 1873. Under this Act registration of vital statistics data is compulsory both in urban and rural areas of this State. There is also a provision for penalty in this Act which may extend to five rupees for neglecting in giving the information to the collecting

agents of registration of statistics. But the penal section is seldom resorted to. The result is that the incidence of under reporting is very high. The present system of collection of vital statistics data is somewhat as follows:—

In the rural areas, as well as in some of the urban areas, the village *Chaukidars* collect the data of birth and death in these areas and submit them to the thana officers on their respective parade day. These thana officers are the Registrars of births and deaths for the areas under them according to the Bengal Birth and Death Registration Act of 1873. A parade day in a thana is arranged so that each and every *Chaukidar* has to pay a visit to the thana at least twice a week. The thana officer maintains the registers of births and deaths and compiles the data obtained from the *Chaukidars* and submits once a month the report to the Civil Surgeon of the district concerned.

In the remaining urban areas the beat jamadar of the municipalities is expected to collect the information from their respective wards and submit them to the Health Officer or to the Sanitary Inspector of the municipalities. These Health Officers are the Registrars of births and deaths of the municipalities concerned. For the municipalities where there are no Health Officers the Sanitary Inspectors or the Health Inspectors are the Registrar of births and deaths. These Health Officers or the Sanitary Inspectors like thana officers maintain the registers of births and deaths and submit the monthly report to the Civil Surgeon just after a month. This system hardly works. Very few of the urban people also notify births and deaths on their own.

The Civil Surgeon is responsible for compiling the vital statistics for the rural and urban areas and send the consolidated monthly vital statistics returns to the Director of Central Bureau of Economics and Statistics since 1st January 1954. The Directorate of Economics and Statistics maintain the statistics of vital occurrences for the State as a whole and submit the information to the Director-General of Health Services, Government of India, New Delhi. Unfortunately, the system of collecting and reporting such vital statistics has many loop-holes and can only result in very imperfect statistics. The statement of vital statistics as mentioned in the Census Tables of 1951 and in the Bihar Statistical Handbook (1952--1955-1956) and from Civil Surgeon's Office has been given below:—

Year.	Births.			Deaths.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1941	1,03,060	53,047	50,013	70,930	37,980	32,950
1942 . ..	77,242	39,730	37,512	53,365	29,050	24,315

Year.		Births.			Deaths.		
		Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7
1943 ..	..	87,263	44,795	42,468	61,655	32,725	28,930
1944 ..	..	88,322	45,713	42,609	1,09,109	58,132	50,977
1945 ..	..	91,988	48,003	43,985	1,08,292	59,060	49,232
1946 ..	..	87,048	45,467	41,581	96,972	51,934	45,038
1947 ..	..	79,033	41,753	38,180	72,312	30,364	32,048
1948 ..	..	85,972	44,273	41,699	60,132	31,672	28,465
1949 ..	..	86,168	43,400	42,768	45,287	23,543	21,744
1950 ..	..	77,606	40,588	37,018	48,400	24,785	23,705
1951 ..	..	N.A.*	43,077	39,259	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1952 ...	..	98,006	N.A.	..	43,562	N.A.	N.A.
1953 ..	..	99,503	51,703	47,800	...	..	..
1954 ..	..	71,542	N.A.	N.A.	33,759	N.A.	N.A.
1955 ..	..	76,001	N.A.	N.A.	38,035	N.A.	N.A.
1956 ..	..	88,015	N.A.	N.A.	38,341	N.A.	N.A.

Important causes of mortality.—The last *Darbhanga District Gazetteer* (1907) mentions—"The mortality was exceptionally heavy in 1892, 1894, 1896, and 1900; in the first three years the deaths outnumbered the births, the death-rate in 1896 being 41.92 per mille, the highest ever recorded in the district; while plague broke out in 1900, and there was also a severe epidemic of cholera, causing 17,500 deaths. There was scarcity in the headquarters and Madhubani subdivision in 1891-92; there was famine in 1897 and in 1898 and 1899 there were floods in the south-west of the district. In spite, however, of these adverse conditions, the number of births reported exceeded the deaths by nearly 66,000. Since the year 1900, the population has been far more progressive, though there has been repeated visitations of plague. The death-rate has not exceeded 34.9 per mille, and there has been a very marked increase in births, the birth-rate averaging 43.35 per mille annually and rising in 1902 and 1904 to over 45 per mille. The number of births during the five years ending in 1905 consequently exceeded that of deaths by 1,53,000, the excess being 87,000 more than that recorded in the preceding nine years.

"Taking the decade ending in 1905, the first half showed a mortality of 87,300 per annum, or 31 per mille, and in the second

*N. A.—Not available.

half the deaths rose to an average of 95,670, or 33 per mille; but the growth in the number of births was far greater, and the annual average increased from 106,500 in the first to 126,500 in the second quinquennium. Although, therefore, the mortality increased by 8,000 a year in the second period, the increase in the number of births (20,000) was more than twice as great."*

Mr. O' Malley further mentioned that according to the returns submitted year by year by far the greatest mortality was due to fever, but the ignorant *chaukidar* responsible for the returns was far from being a medical expert. It may, however, safely be assumed that when the mortality ascribed to fever was usually high in any district, the greater part of the excess was due to malarial affections. Since 1892 the death-rate from fever had eight times exceeded that for the province as a whole. The mortality had never fallen below 20 per mille but on the other hand it had never risen above 23.3 per mille, except in 1905, when it amounted to 26.5 per mille and in the three unhealthy years 1894—96. In the first of these three years it was nearly 30 per mille and in the last it was no less than 31.15 per mille, the highest ever recorded in Darbhanga. Since that year the mortality from fever had remained fairly steady and in the four years ending in 1904 it ranged only between 65,000 and 67,000 per annum, rising, however, to 77,600 in 1905. After fever, O' Malley observed the greatest mortality was due to cholera, which broke out every year and occasionally spread over the district with great virulence.

Medical facilities have now been extended and special drives against plague, cholera and malaria have been made from time to time. The trends have had changes since O' Malley's time. The incidence of mortality from small-pox has definitely declined. The incidence of small-pox was, however, high in 1945 and 1951 and low in 1959-60 and 1961. The mortality from small-pox was very high prior to 1952 but now it is on the wane.

Other bowel complaints such as dysentery and diarrhoea are still very common. The mortality figures for epidemics of cholera are enormously increased by the inclusion of many cases of dysentery and diarrhoea. With improvement in water-supply to both rural and urban areas such complaints are bound to decline. The Kosi ravaged area has been specially selected for such improvements.

Common diseases.—The common diseases of the district are the same as one finds in the other parts of the State, fevers due to common cold, influenza and other respiratory diseases such as

*District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907), pp. 42-43.

bronchitis and pneumonia, dysentery, typhoid, tuberculosis, leprosy and venereal diseases. Dysentery cases are very common particularly in hot weather and also when the paddy seedlings are planted. Malnutrition and anky-ostma infections are responsible for the high incidence of dysentery.

Regarding cholera, W. W. Hunter in his Statistical Account of Bengal had mentioned that cholera was the principal disease of the district and it has been noticed to become more severe as the hot weather advances and the depth of the sub-soil water becomes lower. During the first few years of the period for which reliable returns are available, there were widespread epidemics in each alternate year, the death-rate in 1892, 1894 and 1896 being 4.6, 4.7 and 6.2 per mille respectively, while it was very low in the alternate years. The district was then practically free from this scourge for three years, but since 1900 it has been an annual visitation, causing an average yearly mortality of over 9,000 in the five years ending in 1904, after which it fell to 3,000. It was most severe in 1900, when the returns showed 17,500 deaths, or 6.25 per mille, as due to its ravages.* Cholera has never been totally absent from the district and there have been very few years in which it did not claim some deaths.

The figures for attacks and deaths from cholera in Darbhanga district from 1938 to 1961 are given below:—

Year.	Attacks.	Deaths.
1938	3,706	1,876
1939	5,231	2,324
1940	960	637
1941	9,726	5,637
1942	2,815	1,488
1943	3,075	1,831
1944	13,283	8,501
1945	4,567	2,719
1946	6,933	3,846
1947	2,929	1,669
1948	3,484	1,794
1949	214	112

*District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907), p. 44.

Year.			Attacks.	Deaths.
1950	..	..	1,161	551
1951	..	..	210	69
1952	..	..	310	124
1953	..	..	814	361
1954	..	..	671	233
1955	..	..	151	53
1956	..	..	496	178
1957	..	..	123	46
1958	..	..	328	105
1959	..	..	22	4
1960	..	..	942	340
1961	..	..	743	216

It appears that prior to 1951 the incidence of cholera attack was very high. Since the year 1958-59 and 1960 there has been an increase in the public health staff. Mass inoculation and disinfection of wells both before and after cholera breaks out in greater number have brought down the incidence. Doctors on emergency duties are also deputed by the Health Department. Drugs are distributed free of cost by them.

Plague.—The last *District Gazetteer of Darbhanga* (1907) mentions—"For the last few years bubonic plague has regularly visited the district, the average annual mortality ranging from 1,000 to 4,000. Throughout these years, the disease has pursued a regular course, decreasing or disappearing entirely with hot and rainy weather months, re-appearing after the rains and reaching its climax in the cold weather.

Regarding these epidemics the Civil Surgeon writes as follows:—Plague has become established in the Darbhanga district since 1898. Apparently the first cases occurred in a village named Jalwara in the Samastipur subdivision in March of that year. During recent years it has shown itself in December or January, and has steadily increased during the months of February, March, April and May. In June its virulence declines, and as a rule, cases are not met with from July to November. The Samastipur subdivision in the south of the district has been most severely affected, and the town of Darbhanga has also suffered

greatly. An interesting fact for which no satisfactory explanation has yet been adduced, is that the north and east of the district, comprising chiefly the Madhubani subdivision has upto now been practically immune from the disease. Imported cases have naturally occurred, but plague has never obtained a hold in these parts. Railways have spread, and communications have improved. The lack of these facilities for the importation of the disease cannot, therefore, be given as an explanation of the happy immunity these tracts have hitherto enjoyed. The reasons most probably lies in the nature of the soil, the comparatively smaller density of the population of the villages, or the manner of construction of the houses.

"The type is generally bubonic. The glands most commonly affected appear to be, in order of frequency, (1) the femoral and inguinal glands, (2) the auxiliary glands and (3) the cervico glands. Pneumatic plague is very uncommon. The disease, as in other localities is characterised by a low type of virulence at the commencement, by a very high type of virulence during the height of the epidemic, and again by a diminution of virulence as the epidemic ceases during the hot months and beginning of the rains."*

Plague has almost disappeared since 1952. The attacks and deaths from plague in the district from 1945 to 1951 are given below:—

Year.	Attacks.	Deaths.
1945	50	49
1946	200	146
1947	284	199
1948	461	376
1949	287	172
1950	488	294
1951	16	8

Small-pox.—Hunter in his Statistical Account of Bengal, Volume XIII (1877) mentioned that small-pox was one of the principal diseases of the district. O'Malley in the last District Gazetteer mentioned that small-pox was an annual visitor to the district but its ravages were not very severe and the death-rate never exceeded 0.30 per mille. It occasionally broke out in an epidemic form among the unvaccinated, and was most frequent

*District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907), pp. 44-45.

along the frontier where it was often imported from Nepal. Vaccination on a mass scale was introduced early as noticed by Hunter and replaced the system of inoculation which was often unsuccessful.

Like cholera the disease of small-pox is also epidemic in the district. Hardly any year passes without some stray cases of small-pox. But the death-rate from small-pox is not high. The statistics for attacks and deaths from 1938 to 1961 are given below:—

Year.	Attacks.	Deaths.
1938	1,165	205
1939	1,311	221
1940	2,230	822
1941	1,467	402
1942	439	110
1943	111	16
1944	512	103
1945	2,442	616
1946	313	60
1947	92	12
1948	470	110
1949	54	8
1950	146	43
1951	4,194	1,116
1952	928	122
1953	167	16
1954	118	27
1955	315	61
1956	222	45
1957	409	64
1958	846	243
1959	51	20
1960	17	3
1961	1	Nil

The abovementioned figures indicate that there has been a considerable decline in the incidence of small-pox. It appears from the above statistics that the incidence of small-pox was very high in 1945 and 1951 and was low in 1959-60 and 1961. Vaccination and re-vaccination could completely control small-pox. But the people are still apathetic to take vaccination. It has, however, to be mentioned here that the figures of vaccination and re-vaccination are not co-related. No statistics are collected to show how many vaccinated persons took re-vaccination and when and how many of the deaths are from the section of the people that was vaccinated, re-vaccinated or not vaccinated at all.

The statistics of vaccination and re-vaccination are given below:—

VACCINATION.

Year.	Primary.	Re-vaccination.
1938	14,268	4,454
1939	1,03,028	19,942
1940	1,07,603	30,799
1941	97,218	64,525
1942	98,604	37,785
1943	1,21,316	18,299
1944	1,11,722	55,274
1945	72,233	1,92,048
1946	84,280	60,612
1947	94,612	39,260
1948	1,01,323	51,230
1949	47,589	38,032
1950	70,415	41,480
1951	1,00,180	5,24,581
1952	60,061	4,07,338
1953	67,656	2,99,809
1954	83,229	3,35,950
1955	87,039	10,24,813
1956	84,401	7,32,454
1957	1,01,426	6,59,337
1958	1,18,717	24,38,242
1959	1,37,536	19,78,513
1960	1,27,176	13,24,290
1961	1,00,340	12,24,069

The responsibility for compulsory vaccination of every child in a city or in a village has been placed on the local bodies concerned, the Municipalities or the District Board. The local bodies maintain a staff of trained vaccinators who are expected to visit the houses where children are born, and vaccinate them within six months of their birth. All infants are expected to be re-vaccinated after 5 years from the first or primary vaccination.

In 1952-53 the State Government started a mass vaccination scheme in all the districts of the State to give protection against small-pox to the extent of 80 per cent of the population.

Leprosy.—Leprosy is common in the Sadar subdivision of the district. There is a leprosy clinic centre at Darbhanga which is situated near the Darbhanga Medical College. It was established in 1925 by the District Board and provincialised by State Government in 1960. There is a Medical Officer to look after the working of the clinic and patients. There is no accommodation for indoor patients.

The following statistics of the leprosy clinic will give a fair idea about the incidence of leprosy in this district :—

Year.		Old cases.	New cases.	Total.
1951	..	696	221	917
1952	..	712	313	1,026
1953	..	569	570	1,138
1954	..	807	439	1,246
1955	..	946	420	1,366
1956	..	456	525	981
1957	..	687	436	1,123
1958	..	765	505	1,270
1959	..	1,403	556	1,959
1960	..	1,710	733	2,434
1961	..	766	651	1,417

The figures indicate an increase in the incidence of leprosy. An anti-leprosy campaign has been started by the Government from 1954-55.

Kala-azar.—The incidence of Kala-azar has decreased. According to the hospitals and dispensary figures 42,110 Kala-azar patients were treated in 1944 which rose to 1,77,759 in 1953 but after that year it has shown a downward tendency. Its incidence in 1958 was 390 as against 103 in 1960. There are a few Kala-azar centres for fighting the disease.

Venereal diseases.—Venereal diseases are very common in the district. It is prevalent both in rural and urban areas of the district. There was no control before on the brothels and the prostitutes were actively spreading the disease. The infective persons also did not control themselves and spread the venereal diseases. The previous apathy to take proper medicines and injections is now almost gone. With the spread of birth-control preventives it is expected that the incidence of such diseases will go down.

The statistics for the diseases are not reliable as a small percentage of the infected people only go to the Government hospitals and dispensaries.

Hospitals and dispensaries.—Hospitals and dispensaries in this district according to the line of treatment followed, may be said to be mainly of three types, viz., Allopathic, Homeopathic and *Ayurvedic*. The number of Allopathic dispensaries is by far the largest. Three Unani hospitals are managed by District Board and are situated at Aunsi Babhangama (Madhubani subdivision), Rasulpur Nishta (Sadar subdivision) and Jamalpur (sadar subdivision).

There are altogether 73 Allopathic hospitals and dispensaries functioning in the district, out of which 66 are run by Government, six by the District Board and one by the Central Jail.

NUMBER OF HOSPITALS, DISPENSARIES, AND PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES OF THE DARBHANGA DISTRICT.

Name.	Class.	Date of opening.	Date of provincialisation.	Number of beds.
1. Darbhanga Sadar hospital.	I	..	..	..
2. Samastipur Subdivisional hospital.	I	Not available ..	1st April 1947 ..	32
3. Madhubani Subdivisional hospital.	I	1899 ..	1st April 1949 ..	45
4. Pusa State hospital ..	I	1938 ..	1938 ..	30

Name	Class	Date of opening	Date of provincialisation	Number of beds
5. Madhupur hospital ..	I	28th October 1947	28th October 1947	6
6. Rasiary Primary Centre	I	12th September 1947.	12th September 1947.	6
7. Mahadeomath Primary Centre.	I	28th June 1952	28th June 1952	6
8. Kusheshwar Asthan hospital.	I	1st September 1949	1st September 1949	10
9. Biraul Health Centre ..	I	1956 ..	1956 ..	6
10. Bahera dispensary ..	I	..	1st June 1956 ..	..
11. Jale dispensary ..	I	..	1st June 1956 ..	..
12. Rayam dispensary ..	I	..	1st June 1956 ..	..
13. Bitham dispensary ..	I	..	1st June 1956 ..	..
14. Sumbadeorah dispensary	I	..	1st June 1956 ..	..
15. Rupauli dispensary ..	I	1950 ..	1st June 1956 ..	..
16. Tajpur dispensary ..	I	..	1st June 1956 ..	..
17. Birsingpur dispensary	I	1932 ..	1st June 1956 ..	..
18. Warisnagar dispensary	I	..	1st June 1956 ..	..
19. Chakmeshi dispensary	I	..	1st June 1956 ..	..
20. Dalsinghsarai hospital	I	1942 ..	1st June 1956 ..	..
21. Singia dispensary ..	I	1926 .	1st June 1956 ..	..
22. Kurronadiami dispensary	I	1948 ..	1st June 1956 ..	..
23. Koilakh dispensary ..	I	1948 ..	1st June 1956 ..	..
24. Birat Asthan dispensary	I	1950 ..	1st June 1956 ..	..
25. Phulparas dispensary	I	1932	1st June 1956 ..	..
26. Tameria dispensary ..	I	1952 ..	1st June 1956 ..	..
27. Putai dispensary ..	I	1929 ..	1st June 1956 ..	..
28. Sarso dispensary ..	I	1927 ..	1st June 1956 ..	..
29. Benipatti dispensary ..	I	..	1st June 1956 ..	..
30. Saherbelwa dispensary	I	1926 ..	1st June 1956 ..	..
31. Lohat dispensary ..	I	..	1st June 1956 ..	..
32. Andhrathadi dispensary	I	1927 ..	1st June 1956 ..	..

Name.	Class.	Date of opening.	Date of provincialisation.	Number of beds.
33. Siswa dispensary ..	I	..	1st June 1956 ..	..
34. Rajnagar dispensary ..	I	..	1st April 1955 ..	..
35. Karhan dispensary ..	I	..	1st April 1955 ..	Nil
36. Ghoghardiha dispensary	I	..	1st April 1955 ..	Nil
37. Jhanjharpur dispensary	I	..	1st April 1955 ..	Nil
38. Rohika dispensary ..	I	..	1st April 1955 ..	Nil
39. Kantahu dispensary	I	..	1st April 1955 ..	Nil
40. Hayaghat dispensary ..	I	..	1st April 1955 ..	..
41. Padri dispensary ..	I	..	1st April 1955 ..	Nil
42. Pandaul dispensary ..	I	..	1st April 1955 ..	Nil
43. Rusera dispensary ..	I	..	1st December 1960	..
44. Khajauli dispensary ..	III	..	1st December 1960	..
45. Khutauna dispensary	III	..	1st December 1962	6
46. Jainagar dispensary ..	III	..	..	..
47. Singwara dispensary ..	III	..	..	..
48. Umagaon dispensary	III	..	..	..
49. Harlakhi dispensary ..	III	..	..	..
50. Mohiuddinagar dispensary	III	..	..	—
51. Police hospital ..	II	24th February 1953	24th February 1953	35
52. Jail hospital ..	..	..	..	..
53. Bishanpur hospital ..	I	..	8th June, 1957 ..	20
54. Kalyanpur hospital ..	I	..	January, 1961 ..	..
55. Sarairanjan hospital ..	I	..	January, 1961 ..	—
56. Hasanpur hospital ..	I	..	January, 1961 ..	—
57. Tankaha thana dispensary	I	..	February, 1955	—
58. Ladania thana dispensary	I	..	February, 1955..	..
59. Ujiarpur hospital ..	I	..	January, 1961 ..	..
60. Madhwapur hospital ..	I	..	January, 1961 ..	..
61. Dahu Barhi hospital ..	I	..	January, 1961 ..	..

Name.	Class.	Date of opening.	Date of Provincialisation.	Number of beds.
62. Basopatti hospital ..	I	..	January, 1959 ..	..
63. Manigachi hospital ..	I	..	January, 1961 ..	..
64. T.B. Clinic, Samastipur	I	..	20th March, 1957	..
65. Keotiranway hospital	I	..	January, 1961 ..	..
66. Leper Clinic, Rahamganj	I	..	1st December, 1960	..
67. Bisfi hospital ..	I	..	January, 1961 ..	..

The bed accommodation is extremely small and practically all the hospitals and dispensaries actually keep patients much beyond the strength of actual beds. Sanction has been given to attach six beds to each of the State dispensaries but the scheme has not yet been implemented.

There are five private hospitals, namely, Muktapur Jute Mill Hospital, Hasanpur Sugar Mill Hospital, Lohat Sugar Mill Hospital, Ryam Sugar Mill Hospital and Kameshwaripriya Poor Home, Darbhanga running in the district.

Name of Dispensaries maintained by by the District Board.

1. Sakri dispensary (Sadar subdivision).
2. Panchobh dispensary (Sadar subdivision).
3. Bahera dispensary (Sadar subdivision).
4. Patori dispensary (Samastipur subdivision).
5. Tilushi dispensary (Madhubani subdivision).
6. Kalushi dispensary (Madhubani subdivision).

These dispensaries receive subsidiary grants from District Board. They do not maintain indoor beds to treat the indoor patients. Only outdoor patients are treated. These dispensaries are under the administrative charge of District Medical Officer, Laheria-sarai.

Organisation.—There are two distinct sections so far as the administration of the Health Department is concerned. Broadly speaking one section is the preventive side which is known as the Public Health Department and the other section is the curative side known as the Medical Department. Previously there were two Directorates, one was known as the Directorate of Public Health under the Director of Public Health who had several Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors and there used to be one District Health Officer at the district headquarters. The other Directorate was under the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals and under him there were Civil Surgeons, the principal Medical Official at the district headquarters. For quite a long time the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, usually the seniormost Indian Medical Service Officer available in the province was also the Secretary of the Health Department who controlled both the

sections as indicated. With the change of policy of the Government, the Secretaryship was taken away from the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals and given to an I. C. S. Officer. This had caused quite a stir at one time. The post of the Secretary of the Health Department has continued to be with a member of the Administrative Service.

With the expansion of both the departments the number of gazetted doctors had enormously increased and it was increasingly felt that there was overlapping and avoidable duplication of work. It was also felt that both the departments would work better if the overall responsibility and supervision were vested in one and the same officer at the Governmental level and at district level also there should be one senior doctor who could be entrusted with both the preventive and curative sides. It is with this object that the Public Health and the Medical Department were amalgamated abolishing the post of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals and creating a common post of the Director of Health Services for Bihar.

The shift in the policy of the State had also its impact on the district organisation. A Government Circular no. 11A3-43 of 1958-59, dated the 3rd January, 1959, mentioned that the posts of Civil Surgeons in the districts were converted into posts of Senior Executive Medical Officers-*cum*-Civil Surgeons. Henceforth the Senior Executive Medical Officers-*cum*-Civil Surgeons were to be responsible for the efficient implementation, supervision and control of all public health measures, preventive as well as curative.

Duties of the Senior Executive Medical Officer.—As mentioned the Senior Executive Medical Officer is responsible for all medical work in the district both preventive and curative. He is assisted by the District Medical Officer of Health in respect of Public Health work.

He is Superintendent of all Government hospitals and dispensaries within his district except that which is under direct control of the Directorate. He is responsible for the supervision and inspection of all schemes of the Medical and Public Health sections in his district. He is the appointing authority for the different categories of personnel already delegated to him. He initiates the annual confidential report of all Medical Officers employed in his district under all schemes of the Health Department except the District Medical Officer of Health in respect of whom the existing instructions regarding the initiation of annual confidential report continues in operation. He has the power of transfer of the different categories of Government staff other than the Medical Officer within his district but for transfer outside the district the approval of Regional Deputy Director instead of the Directorate is necessary. He is an *ex-officio* member of the District Board Sanitation Committee and is appointed as Chairman of that Committee to

have sufficient power to co-operate with the District Medical Officer of Health. The Senior Executive Medical Officer is also responsible for the enforcement of drug control measures and as such he can inspect any druggist's shop within the district and take steps for the prosecution of defaulters. He is the authority to issue licences for medical shops and also to cancel the same in case of non-observance of prescribed rules.

The Senior Executive Medical Officer-*cum*-Civil Surgeon visits the Sadar and Police hospitals at headquarters daily when he is not out of station on duty. He is expected to inspect all hospitals and dispensaries incharge of Medical Officers of the status of Assistant Surgeon in the district and all hospitals at subdivisional headquarters at least twice a year.

He is expected to scrutinise the expenditure and accounts of every hospital and dispensary in his district and guide the managing body to any irregularity or other circumstances which in his opinion deserves notice. In all professional matters his decision will be final, but if any difference of opinion arises between him and the managing body regarding any non-professional matters affecting the management of the institution, a reference is made to the Director of Health Services, Bihar, or to the Government for a decision. The multifarious duties have practically made the officer more of an administrator. A good Surgeon or a physician may not be a good administrator. By this arrangement it may be that the public may be deprived of the skill of such men. The scheme has not worked very long to justify an appraisal.

Duties of the District Medical Officer—His services have been placed under the District Board and he is to give advice on technical matters concerning public health such as control of epidemics, vaccination, sanitation, etc. He supervises the work of the subordinate public health staff, viz., Assistant Health Officers, Vaccinators, Disinfectors, who are the employees of the District Board. He seeks advice of the Senior Executive Medical Officer in every matter relating to public health and the latter is to report any case of default and mismanagement to the Government.

The Community Development Blocks have a static and mobile dispensary with three health sub-centres. The Block Medical Officers are responsible for both the preventive and curative medicines.

Mobile Health Centres.—Mobile health centres have been opened in 35 Community Development Blocks of the Darbhanga district to serve the rural areas.

There are three mobile health centres in each Community Development Block. Darbhanga district has mobile health centres at Anantipur, Patory and Madhepur in Hayaghat Community Development Block, Ektara, Akam and Basaitha in Benipatti

Community Development Block, Bhirha, Baraj and Baidyanathpur in Rusera Development Block, Sakhwa, Patsa and Jogmohra in Hasanpur Development Block, Baghi, Murdiwan, Singia Khunal in Samastipur I Community Development Block, Jathmalpur, Ratanpur and Moirapur in Kalyanpur Block, Manspur, Narhia and Bengma in Phulparas Development Block, Lalmani, Kesuan and Paisahi in Khutama Development Block.

Each mobile health centre of Community Development Blocks is run by one health worker, one trained *dai* and one servant. As a preventive measure these centres disinfect wells and houses, give cholera inoculations, vaccinations against small-pox, distribute freely milk powder to the needy and poor public in the areas covered by each Health Centre and distribute multi-vitamin tablets free of cost to the needy people. In each mobile centre outdoor patients are treated free of cost. The medical officer incharge of the block attends the mobile centre twice a week and examine the patients and distribute medicine to them.

Activities of the dispensaries of the Community Development Blocks of Darbhanga district.—Each Community Development Block dispensaries consists of a Medical Officer, a Sanitary Inspector. a Lady Health Visitor, three Auxiliary Nurses or trained *Dais* and a Auxiliary Health Worker.

The function of these dispensaries is to maintain a satisfactory incidence of health in the rural areas. Disinfection of wells, inoculation and vaccination are some of the preventive measures while the block doctor treats the patients at the block dispensaries. Figures of fifteen block dispensaries as given below will give an idea of their working :—

1961.

Name of Block.	Total population.	Disinfection of wells.	Inoculation.	Vaccination.
1. Babubarhi	93,975	4,059	32,460	66,371
2. Jale	98,558	5,208	4,832	8,401
3. Bahera	1,00,975	N.A.	N.A.	6,006
4. Manigachi	1,36,790	2,336	33,660	743
5. Benipatti	1,35,400	7,475	40,334	3,274
6. Bisfi	1,10,900	3,993	52,892	21,168
7. Rusera	1,41,293	1,070	43,196	2,118
8. Ujiarpur	99,679	2,483	31,587	3,732

N.A.—Not available.

Name of Block	Total population	Disinfection of wells	Inoculation	Vaccination
9. Madhwapur	51,447	6,034	28,574	73,827
10. Basopatti	60,646	N.A.	25,235	47,203
11. Laukahi	81,830	2,925	26,588	3,635
12. Hassanpur	1,32,308	N.A.	14,117	6,271
13. Singia	66,534	23,114	56,066	19,380
14. Tajpur II (Morwa) ..	92,886	1,288	67,296	23,250
15. Sarairanjan	94,667	17,447	58,866	17,268

The Block Medical Officers are incharge of their dispensaries and are held responsible for both the preventive and curative aspects. Besides looking after the health and sanitation work of the area the doctors of the respective block dispensaries treat the patients but at present there is no arrangement for treating indoor patients.

Provincialised Hospitals and Dispensaries.—The statement below will show the opening and provincialisation of hospitals and dispensaries since pre-plan period to Third Five-Year Plan :—

Serial no.	Particulars	Pre-Plan period.	Hospitals and dispensaries opened.	Hospitals and dispensaries provincialised			
				District Board.	Ex-landlord (Raj Darbhanga).	Municipal.	Total up to March.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			FIRST FIVE-YEAR PLAN				
1	Government Hospitals, Dispensaries and Health Centres.	6	3	.	9	..	15
2	T. B. Clinic ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	Leper Clinic ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.	..	6	..	..	..	6

N.A.—Not available.

Serial no.	Particulars.	Pre-Plan period.	Hospitals and dispensaries opened.	Hospitals and dispensaries provincialised.			
				District Board.	Ex-landlord (Raj Darbhanga).	Municipal.	Total upto March.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5	Family Planning Centre	..	1	..	..	..	1
6	Community Development Blocks.	..	7	..	..	..	7
	SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN						
1	Government Hospitals, Dispensaries and Health Centres.	..	14	30	..	1	63
2.	T. B. Clinic	..	1	..	..	..	1
3	Leper Clinic.. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..
4	Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.	..	..	..	..	..	6
5	Family Planning Centres	..	..	..	..	..	1
6	Community Development Blocks.	..	23	..	..	..	23
	THIRD FIVE-YEAR PLAN						
1	Government Hospitals, Dispensaries and Health Centres.	..	..	..	..	..	63
2	T. B. Clinic	..	..	..	..	..	1
3	Leper Clinic ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
4	Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.	..	..	..	..	..	6
5	Family Planning Centres	..	..	..	..	..	1
6	Community Development Blocks.	..	..	..	..	..	35

During the Third Five-Year Plan there is provision to increase indoor beds and other medical facilities in Subdivisional Hospitals at Samastipur and Madhubani and Pusa Hospitals. Posting of medical specialists in such hospitals is also under consideration of

the Government. T. B. clinics are also likely to be opened at Madhubani and Pusa Hospitals.

Installation of X'ray Plant at Madhubani and Pusa Hospitals is also expected during the current Plan period. Construction of buildings for hospitals and dispensaries and health sub-centres and staff quarters are also to be done including electrification and sanitary fittings. Nine blocks are expected to be opened during this Plan period.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.—To provide better care and medical attention to mothers in both pre-natal and post-natal stages and also to children from their birth up to a certain age, so far 6 maternity and child welfare centres have been started in this district. These centres are situated at Darbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur, Biraul, Madhepur and Pusa. At present all these centres are under the supervision of Senior Executive Medical Officer who is known as the Civil Surgeon. A Lady Health Visitor, Midwives and *Dais* are posted in these centres to look after the day-to-day working of the centres. These centres are financed by the State Maternity and Child Welfare Bureau. The U. N. I. C. E. F. also give aid to these centres in cash and kind such as milk and medicine, etc.

These centres are concerned, with the attendance of children, attendance of expectant and nursing mothers, distribution of milk powder free of cost to the children and their mothers. They also organise baby shows at intervals and distribution of prizes to the babies at different places during the year. These centres are becoming popular and very helpful to mothers and children both.

The statement showing the Maternity and Child Welfare cases of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres since 1957 to 1961.

Serial no.	Maternity cases.	Samastipur Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.					Madhubani Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.
		1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	Total up to 1961.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Total number of ante-natal mother on cards.	50	94	80	62	57	688
2	Total number of ante-natal on cards.	..	1	6	3	7	689
3	Full time live-birth..	16	27	5	10	25	656
4	Premature live-birth ..	2	3	N.A.	4	1	7
5	Still-birth ..	N.A.	2	1	1	2	20
6	Died undelivered ..	1	2	1	3	2	15
7	Death within 30 days..	N.A.	4	1	1	1	Nil.

Darbhanga Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.					Madhepur Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.			Biraul Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.	
1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.	1961.	1959.	1960.	1961.	1960.	1961.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
137	417	350	175	156	25	30	35	380	225
N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	12	25	250	110
110	141	133	33	119	35	45	50	300	150
Nil	Nil	5	Nil	Nil	4	7	5	46	175
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	4	5	9	20
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1	2	4	15
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	3	2	6	3

N.A.—Not available.

Darbhanga Medical College Hospital.—The actual location of this hospital is between Laheriasarai and Darbhanga about three miles from Darbhanga and close to Darbhanga Medical College. The existence of this hospital dates back to 1926 when the Temple Medical School, Patna was shifted to Darbhanga and was named Darbhanga Medical School Hospital. It was upgraded to the status of the Medical College Hospital in July, 1946 for clinical teaching. The bed strength of the hospital gradually increased to the present (1962) strength of 730 as noted below :—

Improvement.	Year.	Increase in bed strength.
1. Conversion into Darbhanga Medical College Hospital.	July, 1946	250
2. Post-War Development—First Five-Year Plan no. 141.	1950	28
	1951	72
	1953	50
	1955	50
3. (i) Second Five-Year Plan no. 671 ..	1956	114
(ii) Second Five-Year Plan no. 632 ..	1956	26 (Control of venereal diseases).
4. Improvement of Darbhanga Medical College Hospital.	1956	100
5. Improvement of Darbhanga Medical College Hospital Plan no. 671.	1960	10 (Chest surgery).
6. Extra beds..	..	70
Total	..	770

The hospital provides an accommodation of 770 beds out of which 450 are for males and 270 beds for females and 50 beds for children. There are 10 units functioning in the hospital, namely, Medical unit, Surgical unit, Gynaecology unit, Ophthalmology unit, Blood Bank, and Glucose Saline Laboratory, Clinical Pathology, Radiology department, Dental department, Anaesthetic department and Pediatric unit. There are 59 specialist-doctors in all these units to look after the patients and to teach the medical students.

So far as the different sections are concerned, a separate children ward of 50 beds was constructed in 1955. The new female ward of 100 beds was opened in 1957 and the venereal and skin ward with 34 beds was opened in 1957. The blood bank was started in this hospital in 1951.

The Darbhanga Medical College Hospital is equipped with an X-ray apparatus. The hospital is popular in the locality and remains overcrowded throughout the year. A large number of patients are operated every year of hernia, tumors, extractions and other important operations.

The strength of the medical staff in the Darbhanga Medical Hospital is as follows :—

1. Medical Officers	12
2. House Surgeons	37
3. Matron	1
4. Sisters	13
5. Staff Nurses	42
6. Student Nurses	129
7. Compounders	10
8. Dressers	13

There is a Family Planning Centre and Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and both centres are under the premises of the hospital. Besides, there is a T. B. Clinic Centre which is attached to the Darbhanga Medical College Hospital. It is functioning since 1960.

The table below gives the number of treated indoor and outdoor patients at the Darbhanga Medical College Hospital :—

Year	Indoor	Outdoor	Total
1950	Not available	Not available	59,613
1951	Ditto	Ditto	76,048
1952	Ditto	Ditto	88,423
1953	Ditto	Ditto	1,05,345
1954	Ditto	Ditto ..	1,16,344
1955	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	1,35,056
1956	2,15,932	1,44,996	1,60,928
1957	18,548	4,35,317	4,53,865
1958	2,62,909	3,91,514	6,54,423
1959	2,93,855	3,96,862	6,90,717
1960	2,99,764	4,13,186	7,12,950
1961	3,00,129	4,36,540	7,36,669

It is apparent from the above figures that the number of patients is increasing yearly. The total number of patients in 1950 was only 59,613 which increased to 7,36,669 in 1961.

Tuberculosis.—A separate T. B. Clinic Centre was opened in April, 1960 at Darbhanga Medical College Hospital. Prior to 1960 it was treated by the General Medical Hospital, Darbhanga. There is a Director of T. B. Clinic Centre who is the incharge of the centre. There are six Medical Officers, six Health Visitors and two Compounders under the immediate control of the Director. The main duty of the Health Visitors is to give demonstrations and lectures among the people of different wards of the Darbhanga municipal areas. The World Health Organisation also gives help in cash and kind such as medicines and equipments.

The following statistics from Darbhanga T. B. Clinic Hospital are suggestive of a high incidence of this disease :—

Year	Outdoor T. B. patient		Indoor T.B. patient
	New	Old	
1960	1,741	10,307	4
1961	1,653	11,896	4
1962 (up to April) ..	530	3,996	4

Darbhanga Medical College.—The Temple Medical School at Patna was founded in 1878. In 1925 the Prince of Wales Medical College was opened at Patna and the late Maharajadhiraj Sir Rameshwar Singh gave a donation of Rs. 5 lakhs to the Medical College, Patna and wanted that the Temple Medical School be shifted to Darbhanga. This was done and the Temple Medical School continued till 1945 and in 1946 this institution was upgraded as the Darbhanga Medical College. The Darbhanga Medical College is affiliated to the Bihar University for all the subjects prescribed for M.B., B.S. degree. There are also facilities for post-graduate studies and for doctorates in medicines and surgery. This college was recognised by the Indian Medical Council.

In 1962 there are 506 male students and 127 girl students. The seat for the students is limited to 150 in the first year.

The college has got three hostels for boys and one for girls students. There is a well-equipped library. There is a college Athletic Club. The college has not been known to have any particular contribution in research.

Family Planning Centres.—Family Planning is one of the well established health programmes in many other countries and has been adopted in India to bring down the ever-growing population. The problem has been accentuated by scarcity of food, unemployment and other kindred problems. It has been computed that in India there is an annual increase of five millions. The country is not producing enough food for its existing population.

Physiological, Chemical and Mechanical methods of contraception have to be accepted as part of the means, however, imperfect and unpleasant for family planning. The Government both at the Centre and the State level have realised their duty in this matter and the policy has been clearly adopted and is being propagated by all possible means.

At present there are 32 Family Planning Centres which are managed by Central and State Government both. These are located at Darbhanga Medical College Hospital, Subdivisional Hospital, Mabhubani ; Subdivisional Hospital, Samastipur ; Pusa Warisnagar, Sarairanjan, Mohiuddinagar, Kalyanpur, Bibhutpur, Tajpur, Rusera, Singia, Laukaha, Ladania, Jaynagar, Basopatti, Harlakhi, Benipatti, Phulparas, Madhwapur, Babubarhi, Bisfi, Andhrathari, Baheri, Hayaghat, Biraul, Singhwara, Bahera, Manigachi, Keotiranway, Hasainpur and Jale. These Family Planning Centres are attached to National Extension Blocks to their respective areas.

During 1960-61 and 1961-62 about 602 and 119 persons respectively attended the Family Planning Centre of Darbhanga Medical College Hospital. About 320 persons were benefited by contraception in 1961-62 and sterilization operation during 1960-61 and 1961-62 were done 281 and 235 respectively at the centre. It cannot be said that there has been any substantial achievement although a beginning has been made.

Nurses and Midwifery Training Centre, Darbhanga.—The Nurses Training Centre was established in 1938. It is in the premises of Darbhanga Medical College Hospital, Darbhanga. It has seats for 129 'A' grade nurses trainees. The trainees are granted stipend, messing and uniform allowance during the training. The course of the training is three years. The prescribed qualification is at least a pass in Matriculation examination. There is a hostel accommodation for the trainees in the premises of the hospital.

The Midwifery Centre was established in 1942. It has seats for 36 candidates. The candidates who are passed matric and general nursing, are admitted in midwifery course. The trainees are granted a stipend, messing and uniform allowance. The course of the training is nine months only.

There is a sister tutor, a midwifery tutor and two public health nurses to teach the nurses and midwifes.

Training of Compounders, Dressers and Dais.—Prior to 1957 a course of training was imparted to apprentice compounders but now the training to compounders has been closed and has been shifted to Patna General Hospital. Training in elementary midwifery is given to *dais* in the Darbhanga Medical College Hospital, Samastipur Hospital and Madhubani Hospital. The *dais* are granted stipend, i.e., the sum of Rs. 30 per month by the Government during

the apprenticeship. The training is imparted under U.N.I.C.E.F. Scheme for a period of six months. At present the centres have seats for 10 trainees. They are given no facility of lodge and uniform allowance, etc., and they live outside the premises of the hospitals. The Lady Doctor, Staff Nurses and Health Visitors have to give them training.

Besides, there are three training centres for dressers in the district located at Darbhanga Medical College Hospital, Madhubani Hospital and Samastipur Hospital. There are 18 seats for trainees. The training is imparted for a period of six months. They are also not given any sort of stipend. They also live outside and come to take training. The only facility is given to them is that they have not to pay anything for admission.

Subdivisional Hospital, Madhubani.—The Madhubani Subdivisional Hospital was opened in 1867, and was provincialised in April, 1949. The Deputy Superintendent is incharge of the hospital and under him there is a Medical Officer, a Lady Doctor, two Pharmacists, 3 Dressers and 8 Ward Assistants, etc. The total number of beds in the hospital is 45 out of which 30 are for males and 15 for females.

At Madhubani, there is a Family Planning Centre and Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and both are attached to the Subdivisional Hospital, Madhubani. The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is looked after by a Lady Health Visitor, a Midwife and 3 trained *Dais*.

The figures of daily average indoor and outdoor treated patients are given below :—

	Daily average attendance.			
	1959.	1960.	1961.	1962 (up to March).
1	2	3	4	5
1. Indoor patient	63	57.4	58	42.6
2. Outdoor patient	179.9	175	156.1	86.8
3. Total operation	6,599	4,425	2,330	333
4. Total operations selected.. ..	50	540	203	17
5. Total Labour cases	342	616	366	41
6. Abnormal	10	16	15	1

Subdivisional Hospital, Samastipur.—The Samastipur Subdivisional Hospital was provincialised in April, 1947. The Deputy Superintendent is incharge of the hospital and under him there is a Medical Officer, a Lady Doctor, two Compounders, etc. The total number of beds in the hospital is 52 out of which 30 are for males and 22 for females.

At Samastipur, there is a Family Planning Centre and Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, which are attached to the Subdivisional Hospital, Samastipur. The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is looked after by a lady Health Visitor, Midwife and three trained *Dais*.

A T. B. Clinic at Samastipur Hospital was started in 1957. It is looked after by a Medical Officer and there are two nurses and three ward servants and health visitors under him.

The table below will show the number of treated persons at the T. B. Clinic Centre :—

Year	Number of patients treated
1958	732
1959	1,372
1960	2,046
1961	2,459

It is apparent from the above figures that the number of patients is increasing every year. There is no arrangement for indoor beds in the clinic.

The table below will give the number of treated patients, deliveries and operation cases of the Samastipur Hospital :—

Year	Indoor	Outdoor	Deliveries		Operation	
			Normal	Abnormal	Selected	Ordinary
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1959	15,215	1,08,705	187	58	441	1,556
1960	19,702	82,018	255	207	336	1,245
1961	19,670	78,823	209	70	333	1,407
1962 (up to 11th May 1962).	6,251	23,575	68	10	120	297

It is apparent from the above figures that the number of indoor patients has increased during 1960 and there is decrease in the number of outdoor patients and operations.

Expenditure.—Break-up figures of expenditure under "29-Medical" (previously 38-Medical) for which the Senior Executive Medical Officer and Civil Surgeon was drawing and disbursing officers :—

Year.	Pay of establishment.	Allowances.	Contingent.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1958-59	1,22,578	1,35,898	1,11,660	3,67,736
1959-60	90,334	91,262	89,416	2,71,002
1960-61 .. .	23,777	24,659	52,895	1,01,331

The above figures since 1959-60 to 1960-61 show decrease in the totals because the Block Development Officers became the drawing and disbursing officers of their respective blocks.

North-Eastern Railway Hospital, Samastipur.—This hospital was established in 1930 to look after the welfare of the railway employees, their families and railway accident passengers. The District Medical Officer is incharge of the hospital and under him there are 6 Assistant Surgeons, one Junior Matron, two Nurses of grade 'A' and 11 Nurses of grade 'B', one Midwife, 6 Compounders, one Laboratory Assistant and one Dental Surgeon, one Malaria Inspector and 3 Sanitary Inspectors. The total number of beds in the hospital is 106 out of which 42 are for males, 20 for females, 16 for T. B. Ward, 12 for Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and 16 for children. There are 2 specialists in surgery, one in general and one in gynaecology.

The table below will show the number of treated patients at the hospital :—

Year.	Indoor.	Outdoor.
1955-56	Not available.	34,165
1956-57	1,267	35,129
1957-58	1,437	81,772
1958-59	1,575	88,048
1959-60	2,071	92,813
1960-61	2,102	53,370

It is apparent from the above figures that the number of indoor and outdoor patients has increased. During 1956-57 the indoor patients were only 1,263 which increased to 2,102 in 1960-61.

Ayurvedic system.—So far the *Ayurvedic* system is concerned there is an *Ayurvedic* College at Madhubani in this district. The *Ayurvedic* treatment is very much prevalent in this district.

The District Board of Darbhanga has opened 17 *Ayurvedic* dispensaries at Baleshwarasthan (Samastipur Subdivision), Barhi (Madhubani Subdivision), Kantai (Samastipur Subdivision), Chachraha (Madhubani Subdivision), Laukahi Madheshwarasthan, Hinsa (Madhubani Subdivision), Kasraur, Kharari, Khanpur, Kanigaon, Jagannathpur, Assi, Harhachcha, Chotaipatti (Sadar Subdivision), Nayanagar and Sughrino (Samastipur Subdivision). These all dispensaries are under the charge of *Vaidya* who gets his pay from District Board.

Besides, there are also charitable dispensaries at Madhubani, Darbhanga, Samastipur and Dalsingsarai. There is a *Gandhi Ayurvedic Co-operative Industrial Society Limited* at Samastipur which was established in 1960. It is Government aided society since 1960. The members of this society are *Hakims* and *Vaidyas* of the district.

There is a *Darbhanga Zila Vaidya Sammelan* at Madhubani. It was established in 1930. There are about 1,500 members of the association. The annual subscription of this *Sammelan* is Rs. 2 only.

There are three *Unani* Hospitals at Aunsi Babhangama, Rasulpur and Jamalpur under the charge of *Hakims*.

Homoeopathic system.—This system has become quite popular because its medicines are much cheaper than the medicines of other systems.

A fee charged by experienced Homoeopath doctors varies from rupee one to rupees two or slightly more including the cost of medicines. The first Homoeopathic teaching institution, Sinha Homoeo Medical College and Hospital was started at Laheriasarai in 1929. At present (1962) it has 17 teachers and about 200 students. The degree of H.M.S. and diploma are given by this college. There is a charitable hospital attached to this college. This is subsidised by the State Government.

There is a Darbhanga Homoeopathic Association at Laheriasarai which was established in 1932. At present there are about 1,300 members of the association. The association is affiliated to Provincial Homoeopathic Association. The annual subscription for the

membership is rupees 2 only. The General Secretary of the Association had mentioned that the practice of Homoeopathy by quacks who do not hesitate to combine injections, etc., under Allopathy system has led to the deterioration of the cause of Homoeopathy.

There is a *Bharat Homoeo Research Home* at Laheriasarai which was established in 1930. Four Homoeopathic medical articles are manufactured namely, tincture, globule tablets, distilled water and empty phials These articles are in demand by the Homoeopathic practitioners who are scattered all over the district and outside the district.

Activity of the Indian Medical Association, Darbhanga Branch.

In the year 1943 a separate unit of the Indian Medical Association was started at Darbhanga named as the Darbhanga branch. Now the strength of the membership of the Darbhanga branch of the Indian Medical Association has increased to 166 out of which 100 members are from urban area and 66 members from rural area.

The Indian Medical Association of Darbhanga is run from the subscriptions of the members. The members have to pay Rs. 12 annually.

The members of the Darbhanga branch of the Indian Medical Association hold medical conference annually. They deliver lectures on medical problems.

A health week is also observed usually in the month of March when stress is given for examination of the school boys and girls, mass inoculation, etc. Health Exhibition and baby show are held and popular lectures are delivered. Sports and competitions are also organised.

The members help at the time of emergencies like outbreak of cholera, small pox, etc.

Malaria and Anti-Malaria Measures.

Earlier the incidence of Malaria was very high in this district. The usually affected pockets were the foot-hill areas of Nepal *Tarai* and Kosi belt areas of the district. Flood affected areas were also the victim of this disease.

The Civil Surgeon, Captain M.H. Thornely, I. M. S., has also mentioned in the last District Gazetteer (1907) that Malaria was most severe and prevalent in the north of the district near the frontier of Nepal, and in the south-east corner regions which appeared to be badly drained and mostly given to rice cultivation. The Malaria Survey Report, 1935 also mentioned that

Rampatti, Mangarauni and Pandaul villages were badly affected by Malaria in 1929-30.

After independence the Bihar Government took a bold step to check Malaria incidence of the district. For this purpose the Government established a Pilot Malaria Scheme with headquarters at Madhubani in 1949 to fight the ravages of this disease in the Kosi belt. The result was that the spleen rate came down to 30 per cent from 80 per cent. The children parasite rate came down to 10 per cent from 60 per cent. The infant parasite rate came down to 12 per cent from 80 per cent and the adult parasite came down to 8 per cent from 44 per cent.

Being encouraged by spectacular results of the Pilot Project in this district, the National Malaria Control Programme was started at Madhubani and Darbhanga in 1954. These two units were divided into sub-units, namely, Darbhanga, Biraul, Madhepur and Jainagar.

The following statement will show the malariometric incidence which came down as follows:—

Year.		Spleen rate.	Parasite rate.	Infant parasite.
1		2	3	4
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1954-55	..	58.9	16.8	7.7
1955-56	..	18.5	00.7	0.6
1956-57	..	13.08	00.3	0.5
1957-58	..	9.0	Nil	Nil
1958-59	..	1.19	Nil	Nil
1959-60	..	0.2	Nil	Nil
1960-61	..	.09	Nil	Nil

From the above statistics it can be observed that the spleen rate came down to .09 per cent during 1960-61 which was 58.9 per cent in 1954-55.

According to the National Malaria Control Programme, Anti-Malaria Control Units and sub-units have been started at different places in the district. Prior to the launching of this programme the usual Anti-Malaria drugs through Public Health staff posted at various police-stations and also through the Medical Officer of the Government and the District Board dispensaries used to be distributed. With the launching of Malaria Control Programme spraying of D. D. T. in houses and cattle sheds has also been taken up. In respect of the distribution of medicines more vigorous action has been taken by establishing control units and sub-units. The Malaria control unit is at present functioning in this district with its headquarters at Darbhanga and Madhubani.

It may be claimed that the incidence of Malaria has gone down considerably.

Activities of health and sanitary organisation.

The District Medical Officer for health is the head of the health organisation of the district. In his work he is assisted by 3 Assistant Health Officers posted at three subdivisions of the district. Besides them there are eight Sanitary Inspectors, 22 Health Inspectors, 127 Vaccinators and 46 Disinfectors. The work of the public health of the Darbhanga Municipality is looked after by a Municipal Medical Officer for Health. He is assisted in his work by a Sanitary Inspector and Vaccinator. The main function of the Health Department is to control the spread of epidemics like cholera, small-pox and plague. Without underground drainage and slum clearance the problem is difficult in Darbhanga, Samastipur, Madhubani and it can be imagined how difficult the problem will be in the rural areas.

Assistant Health Officer, Sanitary Inspectors and Health Inspectors have to work as Food Inspectors also throughout the district to check food adulteration. They visit the vendors of the different foodstuff to check adulteration in mustard oil which is tested to detect adulteration. The Food Inspectors also take samples of the variety of foodstuff and send them to Chemical Analyst, Bihar for analysis. The work done is rather inadequate. Very nominal fines are imposed usually in case of conviction which do not have any deterrent effect.

Sanitary measures taken during mela time.

Sanitation during fairs and *melas* has to be carefully watched and controlled to check epidemics. The weekly *bazars* held in large villages and important annual fairs where there is a large assembly encourage the spread of infectious diseases. In order to check epidemics the health staff has to be alert. Vaccination and inoculation against Small-pox and Cholera are given in fairs and *melas*. Popular talks are given to spread the knowledge of sanitation. The important annual *melas* of the district that are watched are those held at Saurath, Jethmalpur, Kusheswarasthan, Vidyapatinagar, Bisfi, Ahaiyasthan and Uchchaith.

Water Supply.

So far as the supply of the piped water for the municipal area of Darbhanga town is concerned, it is in existence since 1960. The source of water supply is water towers and tube-wells. There are two water towers, one at Laheriasarai and another at Darbhanga which have been constructed by Public Health Engineering Department. The capacity of the water towers is 1,30,000 gallons each

The details have been given in a separate chapter. It may be said here that the water-supply even to Darbhanga-Laheriasarai is extremely inadequate.

Urban Sanitation.

Arrangements for sanitation in the town are in the hands of the municipal bodies or notified area committees.

Darbhanga city has been expanding enormously in population and development and the municipal arrangement for sanitation is proving inadequate (1962). The city has been growing in a lop-sided manner and even lanes and bye-lanes are now full of *pucca* houses interspersed with slums. Along with some other cities and towns in Bihar, Darbhanga is also a pathological case where there has not been any planned utilization of the available land within the city or in the upland. New areas are being developed even without any attention to communication or drainage facilities. The number of old type service latrines from where night soil has to be cleared by manual process still predominates. Mechanised vehicles, a few of which the municipality has got, cannot cope with the problem of the removal of refuse or garbage from the street sides or corners and unseemly sights of heap of garbage are quite common. The problem of sanitation is accentuated by the fact that there is a sad lack of civic sense. The city has no proper covered sewerage system and *katcha* drains with no proper level form breeding ground of diseases. Cut fruits often in a rotten conditions and eatables are exposed and sold by the side of the drains. Cheap wayside restaurants and hotels selling snacks and other eatables are hardly controlled.

Darbhanga Municipality has an area of 7½ square miles consisting of 1,03,016 souls (1961) and the municipality has only 485 scavengers which is an extremely inadequate strength. The administrative staff consisting of one Health Officer, one Sanitary Inspector and one Health Inspector and two Vaccinators are also inadequate. A very small percentage of houses has got modern sanitary arrangements.

Samastipur, Rusera and Madhubani have got a municipality while Jainagar is served by a Notified Area Committee. These local bodies look after the local sanitation problems. They are also handicapped for funds and a lack of civil sense. The problems at these places are also of the same pattern as in Darbhanga city.

Rural Sanitation.

The rural areas of the district have luckily got extensive cultivation lands near about the villages. The pattern of the location

of the villages is the same here as in the other districts of Bihar. The homestead lands and the houses of the villagers are clustered together while the cultivation lands or the lands for public use belonging to the village are just outside the inhabited area. This presupposes a rather convenient arrangement for the villagers particularly when each household has not got a proper lavatory. Usually the well-to-do villagers have got a patch of enclosed land which serves for the conveniences of the women folk. *Katcha* built latrines known as *sandas* are usually built there. Others use the cultivation lands or secluded spots for their conveniences.

The old-type houses in the rural areas have usually very little of ventilation. Cow-dung and other garbage matter are thrown just in front of the village.

An average village in the rural areas has not got proper roads or lanes. Usually there are cart tracks up to the houses of the well-to-do persons. Villagers usually keep clean the position of the patch just in front of the houses and often besmear that position of the patch with cow-dung. But unfortunately there are many unsocial people who would throw out refuse of the household at any place or let out the kitchen or bath water on the pathway. Small pools of dirty water are often seen and during the rainy season the pools and ditches serve as breeding ground for mosquitoes and flies.

So far as water supply is concerned almost every village has got wells for the supply of drinking and bath water. But the villagers often use the water by washing cattle by the side of the well which practice leads to small depressions and water pools which are very insanitary and breed mosquitoes and flies. The villagers are now being told to sink some manure pits to make their own compost and the propagation of this idea has helped the sanitation problem of the villages to some extent

The Public Health Engineering Department of the Darbhanga has sunk tube-wells for the benefit of the people. Some improvements have been made in this direction where Block Development Centres are functioning. The *Gram Panchayats* in the villages have also to look after the rural sanitation The wells of the villages and the water pools are sprayed with D. D T.

The responsibility of maintaining rural sanitation is technically under the charge of the District Board. The problem is, however, such that the District Board can only take up the bigger problems of water supply, vaccination, epidemic measures, etc. The village problems of sanitation are essentially the problems of the villagers and the Board can only render some assistance to them by providing wells or by making roads, etc. It is unfortunate that every

village in the district has not yet got a proper approach road or a connecting link to the nearest main artery.

To improve the sanitation of the rural areas by educating the general people in the elementary ideas of health and sanitation and in the simple methods of preventing epidemic diseases and also for taking immediate and adequate measures to combat epidemics the State Government has formulated a scheme known as the "Interim Rural and Public Health Scheme" and has given effect to it through various local bodies.

The scheme envisages an uniform and efficient organisation for all the districts within the State of Bihar consisting of the following personnel who will work under the supervision and guidance of a qualified District Health Officer :—

(1) One Assistant Health Officer for each subdivision of the district.

(2) One trained Sanitary Inspector for every two thanas of the district.

(3) One trained Health Inspector for every thana of the district.

(4) One Vaccinator for every 30,000 population of the district.

(5) Two Disinfectors for each thana of the district.

The scheme is already functioning in this district. But its success would ultimately depend on the extent of co-operation it receives from the general mass, which can be expected only when the knowledge of its utility dawns upon them. The staff provided also is far too inadequate and one Vaccinator can never cope with the work for 30,000 souls.

In addition to this the Government supplement the resources of the local bodies by supplying additional drugs to disinfectants and staff to face emergencies.

With the same object in view and to inculcate amongst the willing youth of the country the most essential matters relating to medical and public health the State Government has introduced *Gram Sewak* training scheme since 1950. The trainees get elementary practical and theoretical training on the spread and prevention of the epidemic diseases, village sanitation, community hygiene and first-aid for minor injuries.

Common Indigenous Drugs.

It is understood that a large number of drugs used for *Kaviraji* system of medicine are found in this district. Hence these very

common drugs used by the common people to heal some types of disease also require mention:—

(1) *Madar*.—It is used in dysentery.

(2) *Datma*.—It is used in asthma.

(3) *Kaladanak*.—It is used as a purgative.

(4) *Chireta*.—It is a tonic.

(5) *Neem*.—The decoction of *neem* leaves is used for washing wounds and ulcers. Fresh leaves are taken by mouth for purification of blood. *Neem* oil is used as an antiseptic oil and in treatment of scabies. The *neem* oil is also rubbed in hair for delousing.

(6) *Bel*.—It is used in dysentery.

(7) *Bhang*.—It is nervine, antispasmodic and anodyne.

(8) *Aphim* or opium.—It is used as counter-irritant.

(9) *Kucha*.—It is a tonic and laxative.

(10) *Ghrita Kumari*.—It is used as purgative.

(11) *Tamaku*.—It is used as an emeatic and narcotic.

(12) *Chaulmungra*.—It is chiefly used in skin diseases.

(13) *Kabab chini*.—It is a stimulant

(14) *Lalchitra*.—It is a rubefacient.

(15) *Jhar marich*.—It is a stimulant.

(16) *Khetpapra*.—It is a tonic.

(17) *Isannul*.—The juice of the roots is given in coughs and asthma.

(18) *Trifala*.—Consist of powders derived from the fruits of *Harrey*, *Bahera* and *Amla* in equal quantities. It is used as a laxative and as a general tonic. The cold extract of *Trifala* is used for washing eyes as a general tonic to eye.

(19) *Jayfal*.—This is triturated into paste and usually given to infants in cough and slight fever.

(20) *Tulsi leaves*.—Its decoction is used for the treatment of common cold and coryza.

CHAPTER XV

SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC LIFE.

LABOUR WELFARE.

Labour Organisation.

The office of the Labour Officer, Darbhanga was established in 1954 for the purpose of administration of the various labour laws. At first there was only one Labour Officer for the whole district. In 1959 one more Labour Officer was posted at Darbhanga who at present deals with the Bihar Shops and Establishments Act, 1953 and Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961. His jurisdiction is limited to Madhubani and Sadar subdivisions, while the other Labour Officer, posted at Darbhanga, has jurisdiction all over the district in respect of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 of which he is incharge. He also works as Conciliation Officer under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 while the other Labour Officer has to work as Inspecting Officer under the Bihar Shops and Establishments Act, 1953. In 1961 a Labour Officer was posted at Samastipur and he has been entrusted to administer the Bihar Shops and Establishments Act, 1953 and Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961 within Samastipur subdivision. He is also an Inspecting Officer under the Bihar Shops and Establishments Act, 1953. The District Schemes for Darbhanga district included in the Bihar Second Five-Year Plan other than State and Regional Schemes mentions at page 69 that "It has been decided to post one Superintendent of Labour in each district and one Labour Officer in each subdivision in the whole of State. In the district of Darbhanga it is proposed to appoint one Labour Superintendent at Darbhanga and one Labour Officer at Madhubani during the first period of the plan period at an estimated cost of Rs. 8,878." But this proposal was not implemented till July, 1962. The three Labour Officers, two posted at Darbhanga and one at Samastipur work under the direct control of the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Tirhut Division, Muzaffarpur. Under the Labour Officers there are seven Labour Inspectors posted at Darbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur, Rusera, Jaynagar, Ghoghardiha, and Bahera, whose work is supervised by the Chief Inspector of Agricultural Wages, Bihar, Patna. The head of the Department of Labour, Bihar State is the Commissioner of Labour with his headquarters at Patna.

It had been contemplated in the two Five-Year Plans to augment the strength of the Factory Inspector for the better advancement of the general condition of work, health, remuneration, safety and security of the workers. To achieve this end the Conference of the Labour Ministry prescribed the standard of inspection by

Inspector between 100 and 150 factories registered under Section 2(M) (*i*) and 2(M)(*ii*) of the Factories Act, 1948 per year. Two to three hundred factories registered under Section 85 of the above Act are also to be inspected by him in a year. Under this Scheme one Inspector of Factories with staff has been posted at Samastipur. His jurisdiction extends to all factories situated in the district of Darbhanga. There is also one Labour Welfare Officer and one Lady Welfare Officer to look after the working of a Welfare Centre at Muktapur which is running under the State Employees Insurance Scheme.

Classification of Labourers.

The labourers of the district may broadly be classified into three categories, namely, industrial, agricultural and commercial. The labourers in this district as in other parts of the State cannot be absolutely categorised excepting the technical labour employed in the industrial zone. Thus an agricultural labourer may change his occupation into that of a cartman or he may be employed in some oil or rice mill when he has no employment in the field.

Agricultural Labourers.

Agricultural labourers are usually drawn from the family of the agriculturists and other landless labourers. They are mobile and have no obligation to work for a particular wage unless they are of the category of tied labourers because of some land, gifts or cash advances. Females and children also help in agricultural operations. Their wages are usually paid in cash or in cash and some doles. Their hours are not fixed and their employment also is not assured. They are usually employed for particular agricultural operations and on the average they get employment only for 6 to 8 months in the year. Their wages are much less than that of the industrial labour Their economic condition is also poor and their standard of life unless they have some lands of their own is definitely poorer than that of the average industrial labour. Of late, however, the agricultural labourers have started getting conscious of their rights and at times dictate their terms if the labour supply is short.

Enquiries have been made in different States to estimate to the rates of wages for agricultural workers. "In Bihar, in August 1951 the wages of field workers were between Re. 1-2-6 and Rs. 1-10-0 in case of men and between annas 12 and Rs. 1-8-4 in case of women*." This rate has somewhat gone up now.

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*R. C. Saxena ; Labour Problems and Social Welfare (Sixth Edition), page 623.

The Minimum Wages Act of 1948.

On 11th April, 1946, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the then Labour Member in the Government of India introduced a Minimum Wages Bill, but the passage of the Bill was considerably delayed by the constitutional changes in India. It was passed in March, 1948, and is known as the Minimum Wages Act of 1948. The aim of the Act is to fix minimum wages in certain employments wherein sweated labour is most prevalent or where there is big chance of the exploitation of labour. Part II to the Schedule of the Act, covers agricultural workers and it was enforced in Darbhanga district in May, 1958. The Labour Officer posted at Darbhanga has been appointed Inspecting Officer under this Act for the proper implementation of the Act in the agriculture sector. There are also seven Labour Inspectors for looking after the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 being carried out in the district of Darbhanga. The Government of Bihar in its notification published in the Gazette of 20th May, 1958 have fixed the following minimum rates of wages for agricultural labourers engaged in different agricultural operations for Darbhanga district:—

(1) 2 seers 8 chattaks of paddy and 4 chattaks of rice for plantation of paddy and also for ploughing for five hours per day.

(2) 3 seers 4 chattaks of paddy or wheat or maize or *khesari* and 4 chattaks of rice for sowing, weeding, harrowing and manuring the field, etc.

(3) 3 seers, 4 chattaks of paddy and 4 chattaks of rice for harvesting and plantation (upto the month of August for planting two kathas of land) and also for harvesting and plantation (after August for planting one katha of land).

(4) One bundle out of 16 bundles for harvesting paddy and one bundle out of 12 bundles for harvesting *rabi* crops.

During the years 1960 and 1961, 119 and 114 complaints were respectively filed to the Inspecting Officer, Darbhanga which were disposed of. The Labour Inspectors are making efforts to make the rural agricultural labourers conscious of their rights by making propaganda through canvassing and by distributing pamphlets among them which contain description about the minimum rates of wages fixed for them.

Most of the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 are not properly implemented. The agricultural labourers are not organised and do not even know the provisions of law. They

cannot hold out nor can they afford to complain. The Act has not been any boon to the agricultural labourers.

Standard of Living.

Their average annual income is calculated to be of Rs. 447. The necessity to keep body and soul together guides the expenditure. "In fact, the average annual expenditure per family works out to Rs. 468, including an average expenditure of Rs. 7 'on ceremonies'. There is thus a deficit" *. The inevitable result is that they are mostly semi-starved, not having enough physical strength to perform, in a proper manner, all the agricultural operations. "Generally, food articles account for 85 per cent of the total expenditure , sugar and vegetables for 1.5 per cent, while spices and salt take 2.4 per cent of the expenditure. Other essential food articles, as milk and Ghee, are seldom consumed and meat is taken only on ceremonial occasions. 2.2 per cent is spent annually on fuel, lighting and rent. 'Pan', 'Supari', tobacco and drink and other miscellaneous items account for 8.3%†." Since the diet is poor, the workers generally fall an easy prey to many kinds of diseases and their health and efficiency are adversely affected.

Indebtedness.

The worker is hardly left with any margin to spend on comfort or luxury and cannot also save anything, with the result that in case of any emergency or on occasions of social ceremonies and religious festivals, etc., he is forced to borrow money. A high rate of interest is generally charged by the *Mahajans*. Loans from the man whose land he ploughs will mean the latter will exploit him and give him smaller wages.

Housing.

The housing conditions of agricultural workers are also deplorable. Often the same hut is shared by livestock as well. The Bihar Government has taken steps to provide housing facilities to agricultural labourers. It has a Scheme for construction of houses for landless and homeless Harijans Under this Scheme a sum of Rs. 1,56,800 has been spent in the district of Darbhanga up to the end of Second Five-Year Plan. Under this Scheme Government contributes 75 per cent of the cost of the houses and the beneficiaries contribute the remaining in the form of labour, materials, etc. With this amount 167 houses have been constructed up till July, 1962. Rs. 7,05,400 has also been disbursed as loan to the low-income group people in Darbhanga district for the construction of 143 houses. As a result so far there has been no improvement in their housing conditions.

*V. V. Giri: Labour Problems in Indian Industry, Second Edition 1959, page 417.

†R. C. Saxena: Labour Problems and Social Welfare (Sixth Edition 1958) page 635.

Organisation among Agricultural Workers.

There is only one such organisation named Darbhanga District Khetihar Mazdoor Union, Darbhanga functioning since 1955 under the Praja Socialist Party. The principles of organising them into co-operative societies have not yet been worked upon.

There should be a net work of vocational and technical training centres covering all villages. Such an organisation will in course of time utilise the unemployed among the agricultural labourers. There is a big percentage of drones or semi-drones in the agricultural sector and they could very well be cyphoned off to more useful occupations in cottage industries etc.

Industrial Workers

In the district of Darbhanga the number of registered factories and also the number of workers employed therein are 167 and 8,237 respectively. Moreover, there are 7,671 textile establishments engaging 22,727 whole-time workers and 3,140 non-textile establishments giving employment to 8,435 persons. The important factories of this district are five sugar mills situated at Hasanpur, Lohat, Ryam, Sakri and Samastipur and one Jute Mill at Muktapur. The number of persons employed in sugar mills is 4,217*. They are mostly seasonal labourers and their services are discontinued when the cane-crushing season is over. However, the services of these workers are retained by paying them varying amount of retaining allowance in different factories during the off-season.

Labour Welfare activities.

The term labour welfare is a confusing one giving rise to various interpretations. As pointed out by the Royal Commission on Labour, the term welfare as applied to the industrial worker, "is one which must necessarily be elastic, bearing a somewhat different interpretation in one country from another according to the different social customs, the degrees of industrialisation and the educational development of the worker"†. Different people have given different interpretations to it. One definition confines it to voluntary efforts on the part of the employer to provide the best conditions of employment in their own factories. Another definition given to welfare work is that it is anything for the comfort and improvement, intellectual or social, of the employees over and above the wages paid, which is not a necessity of the industry nor required by law. A resolution adopted by International Labour Conference at its 30th Session, in June, 1947,

*The figures are based on the report of Techno-Economic Survey of Bihar. There may be slight variations.

†Report of the Royal Commission on Labour, page 261.

has enumerated some of these services and amenities which include canteens, rest and recreation facilities, sanitary and medical facilities, arrangement for travel to and from work, and the accommodation of workers employed at a distance from their homes. The Labour Investigation Committee of the Government of India clears the scope of the welfare activities perhaps in the best manner and it mentions, "*For our part we prefer to include* under welfare activities anything done for the intellectual, physical, moral and economic betterment of the workers, whether by employers, by Government or by other agencies, over and above what is laid down by law or what is normally expected as part of the contractual benefits for which the workers may have bargained*".

Welfare work taken in its comprehensive term as mentioned above may be divided into three categories: (*i*) Statutory, (*ii*) Voluntary and (*iii*) Mutual. Statutory welfare constitutes those provisions of welfare work which depend for their observance on the coercive power of the Government. Under voluntary welfare come those activities which are undertaken by the employers for their workers, whereas mutual welfare is a corporate enterprise of the workers who *improve their lot in a suitable manner*. Trade unions for this purpose undertake many provisions for the welfare of the workers.

In the district of Darbhanga it is observed that almost all the important factories provide only those facilities and amenities which they are required to provide under the Factories Act, 1948. In the Factories Act of 1948, a separate chapter has been incorporated, laying down specific welfare measures to be undertaken by employers, such as washing facilities, first aid appliances, canteens, rest shelters, creches, etc. These facilities are available, as stated, to the workers employed in the factories of Darbhanga district. A Welfare Centre at Muktapur has also been established by Government of Bihar under the Bihar State Insurance Scheme which has library, social education, handicraft, recreation and sports sections. A series of labour laws intended for the welfare of the industrial labour such as the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, State Employees Insurance Scheme, Bihar Factory Labour Welfare Officer Rules have been passed. The Factories Act, 1948 has a great impact on industrial labour.

The Factories Act, 1948 *and its implementation in Darbhanga district.*

The Factories Act of 1948 applies to all establishments employing 10 or more persons where power is used and 20 or more workers where power is not used. Under this Act the State Government has been empowered to extend the provisions of the Act to any

*Report of the Labour Investigation Committee, page 345.

establishment irrespective of the number of persons employed therein except where the work is done by the workers solely with the aid of his family. This Act also removes the distinction between perennial and seasonal factories and the facilities provided under the Act are for both kinds of factories. The Factories Act of 1948 also provides seating arrangements for the workers and it also grants power to the State Government to make rules requiring the representatives of the workers in any factory to be associated with management in regard to the welfare arrangements for the workers. By another provision, the Act requires the owner of any factory employing 500 or more workers to appoint a welfare officer. As regards health, safety and welfare this Act specifies the requirements in regard to these matters. The Factories Act of 1948 provides for canteens in factories employing 250 or more workers and creches where 50 women workers are employed. The new Act provides for the disposal of wastes and effluents, the elimination of dust and fumes, the provision of spitoons, control of temperature, supply of cool drinking water during summer and the employment of cleaners to keep the water closets clean. The Act of 1948 also provides casing of new machinery, devices of cutting of power, hoists and lifts, cranes and other lifting machines, pressure plants and precautions against dangerous fumes, explosives and inflammable materials etc. As regards the employment of young persons this Act has fixed the minimum age of employment at 14 and has raised the upper age-limit of adolescents from 17 to 18. The Factories Act of 1948 also lays down hours of work for adults at 48 per week and 9 hours per day. For children and adolescent, the hours of work have been reduced from 5 to 4½ per day Employment of women and children between 7 P.M. and 6 A.M. is prohibited. For overtime work the Act provides that the employees should be paid at twice their normal rates of wages. Every worker who has worked for a period of 240 days or more in a factory is allowed leave with wages at the rate of one day for every 20 days of work if an adult and if a child one day for every 15 days of work. If a worker is discharged or dismissed from services during the year, he is entitled to leave with wages for such number of days for which he is entitled under the Act.

These provisions are not, strictly speaking, carried out in toto. But now with the advancement of trade unions and vigilance of the Labour Officers and the Inspector of Factories most of the provisions are said to be carried out.

The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 has introduced two new institutions—(*i*) the works committee composed of the representatives of employers and workmen in an establishment and (*ii*) industrial tribunals consisting of one or more persons possessing

qualifications ordinarily required for appointment as a High Court Judge, for the prevention and settlement of disputes. It has made conciliation compulsory in all disputes in public utility services and optional in other cases. It fixes a time limit for the conclusion of conciliation proceedings, prohibits strikes and lock-outs during pendency of proceedings and provides for settlement and awards have been made binding upon the parties. The Act of 1947 has been amended by Acts 36 and 41 of 1956. In Darbhanga district, a Labour Officer at Darbhanga has been appointed as Conciliation Officer under this Act. In 1960 and 1961 the number of disputes settled through conciliation proceedings are 84 and 61 respectively. The cases are to be preferred, if not settled there, to the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Tirhut Division, Muzaffarpur.

In Darbhanga district only statutory welfare activities are provided and no attempt either on the part of the trade unions or on the part of employers seems to be made for introducing voluntary and mutual welfare.

Mechanical Railway Workshop, Samastipur.

The Mechanical Workshop of N. E. Railway at Samastipur was established in 1881. The number of workers employed therein consists of 12 highly skilled and 18 skilled supervisors, 437 skilled artisans, 5 supervisors, 85 semi-skilled and 167 unskilled workers, the total being 724. There is an Assistant Personnel Officer and one Welfare Inspector to look after the labour welfare. Under the Factories Act, 1948 a Labour Officer should have been appointed there but it is not known why the Government has not made the appointment of a Labour Officer therein.

A canteen has been provided for workers outside the workshop. This canteen has been in existence for the last three years and tea and snacks are provided there.

Since no woman is employed in the workshop no question of creche arises there. There is an institute known as N. E. Railway Junior Institute which has been in existence since 1928. Membership to this institution is open to the workshop's employees only. There are about 700 members. The Institute provides indoor and outdoor games. It has also a library unit which consists of about 5,000 books on various subjects. Daily newspapers in Hindi, Bengali, English and Urdu are also provided.

The N. E. Railway has also a well-equipped hospital at Samastipur for both workers and their dependants. There is an adequate staff which includes a lady doctor and nurses.

The workshop has got a literacy class where in every quarter 25 workmen are admitted. About 50 workers have so far received education in three R's. Besides, there are three primary schools

located at Jitwarpur, Gandhi Park and Golf field where free education is given to the children of the workers. Those children whose parents draw less than Rs. 225 excluding dearness are given three sets of uniforms in every year.

Fifty workmen have so far been provided with quarters. The number of quarters is inadequate. Rent is charged from the Class III and IV workers at the assessed rate or 10 per cent of the pay of the worker whichever be less. The quarters are of three types—type I which consists of only one room, type II which consists of two rooms and type III which consists of three rooms excluding kitchen and store rooms. Electric light, tapped water and latrine have been provided in type III and II and in some of type I rooms too. Appropriate provisions regarding health, safety and sanitation as provided in the Factories Act, 1948, have been made for the welfare of the workers employed in this workshop.

Unorganised Industries and Commercial Establishments.

There have been some legislative measures relating to workers in shops and commercial establishments. The Government of India first examined the question of granting protection to the workers employed in shops and small commercial establishments in connection with the ratification of the I. L. O. Convention, 1930. The lead in the matter was given to the Bombay Government, which passed an Act on the subject in November, 1940. The Act known as the Bihar Shops and Establishments Act, 1953 (Bihar Act VIII of 1954) was enforced in the four municipal areas, namely, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Madhubani and Rusera and also in the notified area of Jainagar. The shops registered under the Act up to 1961 are 3,436 in Darbhanga municipal area, 1,240 in Samastipur municipal area, 771 in Madhubani municipal area, 288 in Rusera municipal area and 338 in the notified area of Jainagar, the total being 6,081. The Act was for the first time in Darbhanga district introduced in Darbhanga municipal area with effect from 1st April, 1957 and thereafter in Madhubani and Samastipur municipal areas with effect from 15th July, 1958 and then in Rusera municipal area and in notified area of Jainagar with effect from 1st May, 1960. The Labour Officer posted at Darbhanga is also working as Inspecting Officer under this Act and his jurisdiction in this capacity extends to Madhubani, Darbhanga and Jainagar Samastipur and Rusera fall within the jurisdiction of the Labour Officer posted at Samastipur who also acts as Inspecting Officer under this Act. In the year 1961 about 80 complaints were filed by the employees to the Labour and Inspecting Officer, Darbhanga and 15 cases were filed in the Court of S.D.O., Darbhanga. As to the scope of the Act, it applies to Shops and Establishments in certain selected urban areas but the Government can extend its scope. The Act covers, broadly, wage earners, employed in shops

commercial establishments (including insurance and banking firms) restaurants, cinemas and other places of public amusement. The Act also contains provisions in respect of opening and closing hours, hours of work, rest intervals, overtime rates and weekly holidays. As regards employment of children and young persons, the minimum age has been fixed at 12 in Bihar. Night work for children has been prohibited and hours of work have been fixed at 9 per day and 48 per week for adult, 5 per day for children and 7 per day for young persons. Besides, they have been granted one paid weekly holiday.

The Act has not been enforced properly in Darbhanga district due to inadequacy of inspecting staff, and there is generally a non-compliance with the provisions of the Act about holidays, hours of work, etc. In this district the employees particularly in Rusera and Jainagar areas do not seem to know even all the provisions of the Act and so they are not in a position to reap the benefit of the Act. There are abundant cases when the workers are called on weekly holidays and overtime is not paid. The wages are also in some cases not paid regularly. On investigation it was observed (1962) that there is very little implementation of the Act.

Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961.

Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961 has been enforced in the district of Darbhanga with effect from 1st March, 1962. The Act applies to every motor transport undertaking employing five or more motor transport workers. Here motor transport undertaking means a motor transport undertaking engaged in carrying passengers or goods or both by road for hire or reward and includes a private carrier. Motor transport workers includes a driver, conductor, cleaner, station staff, line checking staff, booking clerk, cash clerk, depot clerk, time-keeper, watchman or attendant. For the implementation of the Act the State Government has been authorised to appoint a duly qualified person to be the Chief Inspector and a few duly qualified persons to be Inspectors subordinate to the Chief Inspector Up till June, 1962 appointments have not been made and the Labour Officers posted at Darbhanga and Samastipur are incharge thereof.

Facilities to be provided.—A provision under the Act has been made for a rest room or alternative accommodation to be provided and maintained by the employers at every place where the workers are required to halt at night. The employer is also required under the Act to provide the drivers, conductor and line checking staff with uniforms, rain coats or other like amenities for their protection from rain or cold and an allowance for washing of uniforms is also provided. Medical facilities are also to be provided and a first aid box equipped with the prescribed

contents in every transport vehicle during all working hours is to be provided. Regarding the hours of work, no adult is to work for more than 8 hours in a day and forty-eight hours in a week. But in case of breakdown or dislocation the employer may allow a worker to work for more than 8 hours. The adolescent (one who completed fifteenth year but not eighteenth year) is required to work not more than six hours per day including rest interval of half an hour. The Act prohibits the employment of children in any capacity. Under the Act a worker is entitled for leave with wages at the rate of one day for every twenty days of work for adult and one day for every fifteen days of work for an adolescent if he has worked for a period of 240 days in a calendar year. The Act also provides for one or more canteens where one hundred or more motor transport workers are employed.

In Darbhanga district up to June, 1962 the motor transport undertakings have not been registered and so the provisions have not as yet (i.e. August, 1962) been implemented. But it is expected that within a few months the facilities as provided in the Act will be available to the motor transport workers in this district. The Act does not apply to any transport vehicle which is used for the transport of sick or injured persons or used for any purpose connected with the security of India, the security of a State or the maintenance of public order. The Act provides punishment for those who contravene any provision of the Act with imprisonment which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees or with both.

One important lacuna in the labour welfare programme is in regard to the workers in cottage industries which are unorganised and unregulated industries. In Darbhanga district according to the Annual Review for 1954 by the Labour Department, there are 95 bidi making establishments in which 475 workers are employed. In other industries such as shellac, cloth printing, carpet-weaving, cloth weaving, 198 workers are engaged. The conditions of labour in these "sweated' industries are rather unsatisfactory. These places where cottage industries are carried out are rather ill-ventilated and congested. There is no rule regarding hours of attendance, and very often workers come early in the morning and return home late in the evening after work. Sanitation in and around the cottage industries especially in bidi making and cloth printing centres is rather unsatisfactory. In most of these industries child labour is employed at extremely low wages. Moreover, there is no security of tenure or any other rights for the workers who work in most of these industries on temporary basis.

Prohibition.

Prohibition has been mentioned as a State policy in the Constitution. It has not yet been enforced in Darbhanga district or in any part of the State of Bihar. However, the policy

of the State Government is to control the consumption of intoxicants by raising the prices and imposing restrictions regarding places of consumption, etc. There has been a gradual increase in the prices of most of the intoxicants. The price of the country liquor in 1952 and the existing price which came into force with effect from 1st December, 1961 are given below :—

	Area.*	Price (per gallon) from 1st April 1952.	Present rate (i.e. in 1962).
		Rs.	Rs.
50 U.P.† ..	Urban ..	13	15.36
	Border ..	12	14.40
	Rural ..	13	15.36
		Rs.	Rs.
72.5 ..	Urban ..	7.50	8.64
	Border ..	5.50	6.72
	Rural ..	6.50	7.68

Due to the rise in price a fall in consumption and also in revenue in the district of Darbhanga in the year 1961-62 is noticeable from the statement given below :—

	December, 1960 to March, 1961.			December, 1961 to March, 1962.		
	Urban area.	Rural area.	Border area.	Urban area.	Rural area.	Border area.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Revenue from distillery liquor in rupees.	1,14,946.72	1,12,718.20	20,701.40	1,10,580.34	93,890.78	19,069.70
Consumption of distillery liquor in per gallon.	4,550.4	5,201.5	1,176.00	4,033.4	4,173.4	968.5

*Urban area includes only the areas of Darbhanga, Madhubani and Samastipur Municipalities ; Border area covers Jaynagar, Padma, Harlakhi, Sahar, Khutauna, Loukhi and Mahadeo Math and the rest come under rural area.

†U. P. means upper proof.

Ganja

The price of *ganja* has been increased from one rupee and four annas to one rupee and sixty nP. per tola with effect from 1st April, 1960. There has been no rise in the price of *bhang* and opium since 1952. The price of *bhang* and opium per tola is 3 annas and 8 rupees respectively. The statement given below indicates the consumption of *ganja*, *bhang* and opium in the district of Darbhanga :—

[FIGURES IN MDS. AND SEERS.]

Year.	Ganja.	Bhang.	Opium.
1940-41	20 27	0 15¼	4 35
1950-51	21 25¼	1 32	3 36¼
1960-61	37 6	1 31	Not available.

Prima facie, the statement shows an increase of about 75 per cent in the consumption of *ganja*. But when we take into account the rise in the population of the district from 34,57,070 in 1941 to 44,22,363 in 1961 (i.e. about 28 per cent rise) the real percentage of increase in consumption of *ganja* comes down to about 47 per cent.* It has also to be remembered that Darbhanga district has been a notorious area for smuggling of non-duty paid *ganja* from Nepal a part of which is sure to be consumed within the district.

In case of *bhang* it appears that there has been a slight decrease in 1960-61 in comparison with the consumption in 1950-51. It should be borne in mind that in Darbhanga district *bhang* grows abundantly and people most frequently utilise it and so they have rare occasion to go to market for purchasing *bhang*. Therefore, the consumption of *bhang* as shown in the statement does not represent the incidence of real consumption.

As regards opium, restriction has been imposed upon its consumption. The Bihar and Orissa Opium Smoking Act, 1928 which came into force with effect from 1st January 1929 requires that only those persons who are twenty-five or above twenty-five years and are in the habit of smoking opium, after getting their names registered in the prescribed manner under the Act, may be granted a fixed quantity of opium. Since 1st April, 1959 the sale of opium for oral consumption is strictly regulated and now opium can only be procured under medical certificate and for health purposes.

Any person other than a registered smoker who manufactures prepared opium or has in possession any prepared opium or smokes or otherwise uses prepared opium is liable to be punished

*The final total population of the district as now available is 4,418,027 (P.C.R.C.)

for each offence with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both. The recent restriction is calculated to stop new recruits to opium consumption.

There are also some restrictions against the consumption of country liquor. For instance, the premises of any country liquor shop cannot be used for consuming liquor and indulging in bouts. The idea is that if people will have to take their liquor home for drinking, there will be lesser consumption. But these measures have had very little effect and the incidence of the consumption of intoxicants has certainly gone up. In summer season *tari* as a beverage is very largely consumed by the poorer section throughout the district.

On 7th July, 1962 while inaugurating the two-day session of the Bihar State Prohibition Conference at Deoghar, Mr. Sriman Narayan, Member, Planning Commission, suggested that the police approach should be replaced by the educative approach in implementing prohibition programmes and persons addicted to drinking should not be treated as criminals but as patients and sick people and they should be persuaded to give up this habit through sympathy and general education. He added that the police should deal strictly with illicit distillers who try to trade in human weakness. The Planning Commission and the Ministry of Home Affairs have recently decided to undertake intensive educational and promotional work for prohibition in 47 districts in different States during the current year. During the Third Plan period the Planning Commission is to spend Rs. 50 lakhs on educative programmes on prohibition. The departments of Community Development, General and Social Education and Social Welfare have been directed to regard the prohibition programme as an integral part of their activities. Several all-India Organisations like the Sarva Seva Sangh, the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Bharat Sevak Samaj and Harijan Sevak Sangh have also agreed to participate in the educative programmes.

In this district two voluntary social organisations, namely, Harijan Sevak Sangh and Bharat Sevak Samaj are interested in stopping consumption of intoxicants. Under the Harijan Sevak Sangh there is a Sub-Committee named *Nasabandi Samiti* consisting of eighteen members. The *Samiti* is working in this district for about two years.

ADVANCEMENT OF BACKWARD CLASSES AND TRIBES.

General Introduction.

Backward Classes explained.—The term 'Backward Classes' has been used to include Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, Denotified Tribes and Other Backward Classes. The term "Backward' is

both vague and relative and one is not surprised to find that the Constitution nowhere seeks to define it.

"In India there are some communities, besides the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which give a definite impression of social and educational backwardness and inferiority when set against the traditional upper castes in Hindu society. There are also non-Hindu communities who are backward in the same sense. They are at a stage of social evolution when, unless given special attention for a certain period and raised to what may be called the normal level of socio-economic development, they will not be capable of taking advantage of the general facilities available to the nation. The concept of backwardness in India has therefore a special connotation". It is in this sense the term (Backward Class) may be understood.

Advancement of Scheduled Castes.—The term Scheduled Castes is the expression standardized in the Constitution of the Republic of India. Article 341 of the Constitution empowers the President after consulting the head of the particular State to notify an order "the castes, races, or tribes or parts of or group within castes, races or tribes" "which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Castes in relation to that State."* The Second Clause of the Article empowers the Parliament to pass a law to include or exclude from the list so notified by the President "any caste, race or tribe or part of or group within any caste, race or tribe". So here Scheduled Castes mean those groups which are named in the Scheduled Castes Order in force for the time being. The expression thus standardized in the Constitution was first coined by the Simon Commission and embodied in the Government of India Act, 1935, in Section 309. "Though Mahatma Gandhi had, through his weekly the *Harijan* and his *Harijan Sevak Sangh* and other organisations, his propaganda and his fasts, tried to designate these (untouchables, the depressed classes or backward classes) classes as *Harijans*, the framers of the Constitution, the largest bulk of whom were staunch followers and devotees of Gandhi, surprisingly adopted the term coined by the Simon Commission."†

Under the old idea of caste certain sections of Hindu society regarded as untouchable were devoid of the civil rights. The question of removing their disabilities and placing them on a footing of civil equality came up for consideration when the British Government established in India. In 1858, it was announced in a press note that "although the Governor-in-Council does not contemplate the introduction of low caste pupils into schools, the expenses of which are shared with Government by local contributors and patrons who object to such a measure, he

*Social Welfare in India, the Planning Commission, page 471.

†G. S. Ghurye, caste and Class in India, page 240.

reserves to himself the full right of refusing the support of Government to any partially aided school in which the benefits of education are withheld from any class of persons on account of caste or race, and further resolves that all schools maintained at the sole cost of Government shall be open to all classes of its subjects without distinction." The Castes Disabilities Removal Act of 1850, as may be expected, from its title, does not remove civil disabilities existing between caste and caste but facilitates conversion to another religion or admission into another caste. This Act provides that a person does not forfeit his ordinary rights of property by loss of caste or change of religion. Social reformers were not satisfied with the existing state of affairs and legislators tried to introduce bills legalising inter caste marriages. The Special Marriage Act of 1872 made it possible for an Indian of whatever caste or creed to enter into a valid marriage with a person belonging to any caste or creed, provided the parties registered the contract of marriage, declaring *inter alia* that they did not belong to any religion. The clause requiring the solemn renunciation of caste and religion by the parties to a civil marriage was considered a problem. With the efforts of Sir Hari Singh Gour the Special Marriage Amendment Act of 1923 was passed. If two Hindus belonging to different castes marry under this Act they were not required to renounce their religion in declaration but have to forfeit certain of their personal rights as Hindu. They cannot adopt. On their marriage they cease to be the members of the joint family and their rights in the property of the family cease. The consequence of the promulgation of a uniform law and of certain administrative measures has been the removal of the legal inequality in the treatment of different castes, particularly the so-called low castes. One of the disabilities of low caste was that they were still denied access to Hindu temples.

The British brought with them a casteless culture and a progressive literature of dynamic thoughts on individual liberty. With the introduction of English education many of the intelligent minds of the country came in closer contact with the religion of the rulers and advanced philosophy. Some Indians like Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Devendra Nath Tagore started movements which aimed at liberalising religion and propagating the brotherhood of man. The Brahmo Samaj had not only monotheism to preach but also to establish a brotherhood wherein man is not to be divided from man because of caste or status. The Bombay *Prarthna Samaj*, inspired by the ideals of Brahmo Samaj in Bengal, has also thrown caste overboard as far as its tenets go. The *Arya Samaj* founded by Swami Dayanand also openly denounced caste-differentials. In 1873 Jyotirons Phooley of Poona, though a man of mali caste and of little education started an association of members called the *Satya-shodhak Samaj* with the purpose of asserting the worth of man irrespective of castes. Individual workers like V. R. Shinde and A. V. Thakkar have done much not only to rouse the feeling of

the caste-Hindus against the urgent doctrine of untouchability but also to prepare the depressed or *Harijans* for better treatment by spreading education among them. The term *Harijan* was coined by Gandhiji to devote the then untouchables or the Scheduled Castes. It was not until Mahatma Gandhi's fast over the Communal Award and the Poona Act in the year 1932 that the movement got all India recognition. By this award the British Government sought to keep the *Harijans* outside the Hindu fold through a system of separate electorates. This was tantamount to dividing the Hindu Community to the great detriment of its solidarity and homogeneity. Mahatma Gandhi declared that he would resist, with his life, any attempt that might be made by the British Cabinet to separate the *Harijans* from the Hindu community through separate electorates.

Gandhiji protested emphatically against the decision by undertaking a fast which forced the British Government to accept the now famous Poona Pact (26th September, 1932) as agreed by both caste Hindus and *Harijan* Hindus. As a result of this a certain number of seats were reserved for *Harijans* in the general electorates both in the Provincial and Central Legislatures. To remove untouchability from India, an All-India organisation known as the All-India Harijan Sevak Sangh came into existence in 1932. Mahatma Gandhi did not rest satisfied with the formation of this organisation to look after the welfare of *Harijans*. He wanted some thing concrete done for them and wanted to rouse the conscience of the caste Hindus against the sin of untouchability. He threw open his *Savarmati Ashram* to *Harijans* and said :

> "Unless and until we befriend the Harijans, unless and until we treat him as our own brother, we cannot treat humanity as one brotherhood. The whole movement for the removal of untouchability is a movement for the establishment of universal brotherhood, and nothing else."

Constitution.

With independence in India a new chapter has been opened for the *Harijans* or the Scheduled Castes. The Preamble of the Constitution of India guarantees to all citizens of India, social, economic, and political justice ; liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship and equality of status and opportunity, and seeks to promote fraternity among Indians in order to assure the dignity of the individual and the unity of the nation. Under Article 17, untouchability has been abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. Article 15(4) empowers the States to make special provision for the advancement of the Scheduled Castes. Article 46 enjoins on the State to promote with special care the education and economic interests of the Scheduled Castes and to protect them from social injustices and all forms of exploitation. Under

Articles 330 and 332 provision has been made for the reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes, among others, in Parliament as also in the State Legislature on a population basis. In Article 335, it has been enjoined that the claims of the Scheduled Castes have to be taken into account while making appointments to services. Provision for the appointment of a Special Officer by the President for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been made under Article 33, and he has since been appointed.

The Bihar Harijan Act, 1949

Most of the States have already undertaken and brought into effect legislation for the purpose of giving effect to the abolition of untouchability and for the removal of numerous hardships and disabilities from which the members of the Scheduled Castes have been suffering. In our State, the Bihar Harijan (Removal of Civil Disabilities) Act, 1949 was passed. The Act provides that no *Harijan* can be denied access (*i*) to any river, pool, pond, stream, bathing *ghat*, well, tank, water tap, etc., (*ii*) to any public conveyance plying for hire, (*iii*) to or using any building, place or institution used for charitable or public purposes maintained wholly or partially by Bihar Government or local authority, (*iv*) to or using a place of public amusement, entertainment, (*v*) to join any institution, fair, meeting, (*vi*) to religious institutions including a temple, *math*, shrine or *dharmsala*, (*vii*) to a shop to which the members of all other castes are admitted, etc. The punishment under the Act is simple imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees or with both. The Act defines *Harijan* a person belonging to a Scheduled Caste as defined in clause 24 of Article 366 of the Constitution.

Present position

The report of the Study Team on Social Welfare and Welfare of Backward Classes reveals that "In spite of the importance given to the removal of untouchability, the evil still prevails and the results have not been commensurate with the expenditure incurred by the Government on this account. We feel that the problem can be tackled more effectively through social reform than through Governmental action, but regret to observe that after Gandhiji's death the social reform campaign in this regard has slackned very considerably. We find that there is also a need for strengthening the legislative and executive measures in order to make them effective."*

Present policy of the Government.

There are two very clear implications of the policy adopted by the Government of India towards the Backward Classes. On the one hand there is recognition of the fact that certain sections of the population are socially, educationally and economically not at par

* Report of the Study Team on Social Welfare and Welfare of Backward Classes, Vol. I, Page 12.

with the rest of the community. Along with this there is also a stipulation that the wide disparities in the socio-economic levels of various sections of the community should be narrowed down and finally eliminated. It has been also realised that special arrangements would have to be made for them in order to bring them to a position of equality with other citizens. In fact, the Government has, as embodied in the Constitution, adopted a policy of social justice.

Five-Year Plans and Welfare of Scheduled Castes.

Development programmes for the welfare of Backward Classes, for which provision is made in the Five-Year Plan, are intended to supplement benefits occurring from programmes of development in different fields such as agriculture, co-operation, irrigation, small-scale industries, communications, education, health, housing, rural water supply and others. "For programmes relating to the welfare of Backward Classes , a total outlay of Rs. 79 crores was incurred in the Second Plan compared to Rs. 30 crores in the First Plan. The Third Plan at present provides for programmes estimated to cost about Rs. 114 crores."* Out of the outlay of Rs. 114 crores in the Third Plan, provided for the welfare of Backward Classes about Rs. 42 crores are intended for schemes of educational development, Rs. 47 crores for economic uplift schemes and Rs. 25 crores for health, housing and other schemes. The problems of Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes are essentially those of economically weaker sections of the community, who suffer also in large or smaller measure from social disabilities. The Constitution also provided certain reservations for Scheduled Castes. These were limited, in the first instance, to a period of ten years. By an amendment of the Constitution these reservations have been extended by a further period of ten years.

Welfare, whose responsibility.

The welfare of the Scheduled Castes has been considered to be a subject within the special responsibility of the State Governments and the Central Government has no executive function to perform directly in the interests of the Scheduled Castes. It can only promote their interests in an indirect manner by giving grant-in-aid and advice. This is at present being followed.

Darbhanga district has less than one thousand tribals and hence tribal welfare has not been discussed here.

Advancement of Backward Classes and Tribes.

The population of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes in the district of Darbhanga based on the report of Bihar Statistical Handbook, 1956 (page 13) is as follows:—

		Males.	Females.	Total
Scheduled Castes	..	2,39,538	2,65,490	5,05,028
Scheduled Tribes	..	523	460	983
Backward Classes	..	3,44,680	3,51,328	6,96,008

*Third Five-Year Plan, page 701.

Persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes are more or less evenly scattered throughout the district. In so far as persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes are concerned, they have mainly confined themselves to Madhubani and Samastipur Subdivisions. Their subdivisionwise distribution is given below :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Darbhanga subdivision	8	27	35
Madhubani subdivision	248	206	454
Samastipur subdivision	242	175	417
Total—Rural population	498	408	906
Total—Urban population	25	52	77
Total—District population	523	460	983

The total number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes taken together comes to 12,02,019 as against the total population of 37,69,534 persons according to 1951 census and thus they form about one-third of the whole population of the district. The number of persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes as stated above is very meagre in this district and so no major scheme has been taken up in this district for their welfare.

The following castes or groups of the Darbhanga district were notified as Scheduled Castes under the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 :—

(1) Bauri, (2) Bantar, (3) Bhogta, (4) Chamar, (5) Chaupal, (6) Dhobi, (7) Dom, (8) Dusadh (including Dhari or Dharhi), (9) Ghasi, (10) Halalkhor, (11) Hari (including Mehtar), (12) Kanjar, (13) Kurariar, (14) Lalbegi, (15) Mochi, (16) Mushar, (17) Nat , (18) Pan, (19) Pasi, (20) Rajwar, (21) Turi, (22) Bhumij.

The following castes or groups of the Darbhanga district were notified as Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1951 :—

(1) Asur, (2) Baiga, (3) Bathudi, (4) Bedia, (5) Binjhia, (6) Birhor, (7) Birjia, (8) Chero, (9) Chik Baraik, (10) Gond, (11) Gorait, (12) Ho, (13) Karmali, (14) Kharia, (15) Kharwar, (16) Khond, (17) Kisan, (18) Kora, (19) Korwa, (20) Lohara, (21) Mahli, (22) Mal Paharia, (23) Munda, (24) Oraon, (25) Parhaiya, (26) Santal, (27) Sauria Paharia, (28) Savar.

The following castes or groups of the Darbhanga district have been classified as Backward Classes. All others have been included in the non-Backward category :—

(1) Bari, (2) Banpar, (3) Beldar, (4) Bhathiara (Muslim), (5) Bherihar, (6) Bhuiya, (7) Bind, (8) Chik (Muslim), (9) Dafali (Muslim), (10) Dhanuk, (11) Dhunia (Muslim), (12) Gorhi (including Chabi), (13) Hajjam, (14) Kahar, (15) Kasab (Kasai-Muslim), (16) Kewat (Keut), (16A) Khatik, (17) Mali (Malakar), (18) Mallah (including Surahiya), (19) Madari (Muslim), (20) Miriasin (Muslim), (21) Nat (Muslim), (22) Noniya, (23) Pamaria (Muslim), (24) Sheikhra, (25) Tantis (Tatwas), (26) Turha, (27) Aghori, (28) Chain, (29) Dhamin, (30) Dhimar, (31) Gandharb, (32) Khatwe, (33) Medara, (34) Dhobi (Muslim), (35) Halalkhor (Muslim), (36) Lalbegi (Muslim), (37) Mehtar (Muslim).

After the attainment of Independence the Bihar State took up the amelioration of the Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as a matter of policy. A separate department at Government level known as the Welfare Department was created. This department works through a District Welfare Officer at the district level. The District Welfare Officer with his headquarters at Laheriasarai, Darbhanga works under the administrative control of the District Magistrate. The District Welfare Officer has his own staff consisting of one Assistant District Welfare Officer, 30 Welfare Inspectors and 16 Kalyan Grain-*Gola* Sevaks.

The District Welfare Officer has multifarious duties. His main functions relate to the removal of disabilities of Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, development of education among them by opening schools and arrangements of stipends to the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, provision of hostels for them, arrangement for loans and subsidies, medical aid, grain-*golas*, sinking of wells, etc.

Economic Welfare.

The families of the Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes are very poor in this district; they are mostly landless and very much indebted. Even if land is available, seeds and money are to be procured on credit from the village *Mahajans* at exorbitant rates of compound interest. These debts are realised at the time of harvesting, leaving very little margin.

Grain-golas.

Sixteen grain-*golas* have been established in this district till July, 1962 to give seed on credit and also grain for food in times of scarcity. These grain-*golas* supply seeds at 25 per cent rate of interest for the first year and thereafter 6 1/4 per cent compound

interest for each succeeding year. Previously, this facility was for the persons belonging to the Scheduled Tribes only but due to subsequent amendment in the Grain-*golas* Rules, Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes of Annexure I may also get the benefit of these *golas*. Here it is to note that as in this district the number of Scheduled Tribes is very meagre and that too is unevenly distributed in the district, Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes have been benefited more than the Scheduled Tribes for which originally the scheme was introduced. The Block Development Officer or Circle Officer has been authorised to sanction the quantity of grain to be granted to the petitioner and usually from 2 to 10 maunds of grain is sanctioned according to the need of the individual and availability of grain in the stock. The list of the sixteen grain-*golas* and other details relating to them is given below :—

Name of the place where grain-*gola* is situated.	Name of the concerning police-station.	Year in which started.	Number of persons benefited during 1958-59 and 1959-60.		
			Scheduled Castes.	Backward Classes.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Ratanpur ..	Darbhanga Sadar	1956-57	182	121	303
Narainpur ..	Bahera ..	1956-57	161	200	361
Benipatti .	Benipatti ..	1956-57	226	220	446
Madhepur ..	Madhepur ..	1956-57	175	200	375
Rusera ..	Rusera ..	1956-57	239	158	397
Sarairanjan ..	Samastipur ..	1956-57	167	67	234
Jaynagar ..	Jaynagar ..	1957-58	121	40	161
Khutauna ..	Laukaha ..	1957-58	295	310	605
Singhwara .	Darbhanga Sadar	1957-58	131	238	369
Hansa Manipur	Warisnagar ..	1957-58	177	85	262
Kusheswarasthan	Singia ..	1957-58	320	120	440
Dumri ..	Biraul ..	1957-58	164	144	308
Darori ..	Warisnagar ..	1958-59	43	57	100
Baheri ..	Darbhanga Sadar	1958-59	31	27	58
Simra ..	Jhanjharpur ..	1958-59	37	97	134
Bachhi ..	Madhubani ..	1958-59	82	101	183
TOTAL	..	..	2,551	2,185	4,736

The above table shows that the number of persons benefited during two years, i.e., 1958-59 and 1959-60 cannot be said to be satisfactory.

Agricultural subsidy.

The agricultural subsidy granted to the agriculturists belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes for the last four years is given below:—

Year.		Scheduled Castes.		Amount.	Backward Classes.		Amount.
1		2		3	4		5
				Rs.			Rs.
1958-59	..	Scheduled Castes		27,500	Backward Classes	..	..
1959-60	..	Ditto	..	36,418	Ditto	..	..
1960-61	..	Ditto	..	11,100	Ditto	..	539
1961-62	..	Ditto	..	11,300	Ditto	..	540
		TOTAL	..	86,318	....		1,079

The agricultural subsidy is meant for purchase of bullocks, manure and seed. In view of the poor condition of the agriculturists and frequent drought and flood causing immense harm to them, the amount of agricultural subsidy is not sufficient to meet their requirement.

Housing Scheme.—In order to provide the poor and homeless Harijans with houses so that they may settle in the village, housing scheme was introduced. The construction of houses is sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,250 per house, out of which the Government's contribution is Rs. 937.50, i.e., 75 per cent per house. Generally, the beneficiary contributes the remaining in form of labour, raw materials, etc. In the district of Darbhanga 112 houses under State-sponsored scheme and 165 houses under Centrally-sponsored schemes have been constructed and 20 houses under State-sponsored scheme and 41 houses under Centrally-sponsored scheme are under construction. The number of houses constructed so far (i.e., 277) is not adequate for a population of over 5 lakh Harijans in the district of Darbhanga. The State Government has spent Rs. 1,56,800 in the district up to the end of Second Five-Year Plan for construction of 167 houses out of which 112 houses have already been constructed and 20 houses are under

construction. The number of houses and the names of the concerning Blocks under different schemes are given below :—

State-sponsored scheme.		Centrally-sponsored scheme.	
Name of the Block or Anchal.	Number of houses constructed.	Name of the Block or Anchal.	Number of houses constructed.
Jhanjharpur	32	Sarairanjan	20
Kalyanpur	4	Kalyanpur	16
Khajauli	21	Khajauli	16
Hayaghat	29	Biraul	20
Rusera	16	Jaynagar . ..	41
Warisnagar	10	Manigachhi	26
		Morwa	6
		Pandaul	20
Total ..	112	Total ..	165

State-sponsored scheme.		Centrally-sponsored scheme.	
Name of the Block or Anchal.	Number of houses under construction	Name of the Block or Anchal.	Number of houses under construction.
Pusa	10	Pusa	3
Warisnagar	10	Warisnagar	3
		Manigachhi	6
		Pandaul . ..	10
		Rusera	4
		Morwa	8
		Ujiarpur	7
Total ..	20	Total	41

The help rendered cannot be said to be large or adequate but a beginning has been made.

Educational facilities.—As far as the educational facilities of the Scheduled Castes are concerned the Central Government as well as State Government are interested. The Central Government constituted a fund known as the Scheduled Castes Scholarship Fund as early as in 1944 and it was thrown open to the Scheduled Tribes after four years and in the year 1949-50 it was extended to other Backward Classes also. This scholarship is only for post-graduate study. Under the present arrangement post-matric. scholarships are

administered by a separate Backward Classes Scholarships Board of the Union Ministry of Education. It was felt that the sanction and disbursement of post-matric. scholarships from the Central level added to the delay in sanction and payment and so the Ministry of Education have delegated the powers of sanctioning post-matric. scholarships to State Government/Union Territories, vide their circular letter no. F-28-1/59-S-4, dated the 11th July, 1959. Stipends and book-grants are awarded to the students of Backward Classes on the recommendation of the District Stipend Committee. In our State advance allotments are made every year to each district on the basis of the Backward Classes population and the number of scholarships awarded in previous years. The District Welfare Officer, Darbhanga receives applications and places them before the District Stipend Committee. The awards are sanctioned on the recommendation of this Committee and the amount is placed at the disposal of the headmasters in the case of Government schools. In case of non-governmental schools it is the District Welfare Officer or the Secretary of the Voluntary Organisation who is authorised as drawing and disbursing officer. Students reading in colleges are awarded stipend on the recommendation of the State Committee.

In Darbhanga district from 1948-49 to 1959-60, 5,224 school students of Scheduled Castes were awarded stipends and book-grants of Rs. 3,71,980 and 186 college students were awarded scholarships of Rs. 40,823. A sum of Rs. 28,700 was granted to the various institutions for reimbursement of loss in fee income. 2,306 school students of Backward Classes were awarded stipends of Rs. 2,08,952 and 352 college students of the same classes received scholarships of Rs. 1,28,241. A sum of Rs. 2,050 was spent over book-grants to the students of Backward Classes. Moreover, 20 tribal college students were awarded scholarships of Rs. 5,871. The amount of stipends and book-grants awarded to the students of Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and Scheduled Tribes for the years 1960-61 and 1961-62 is given below* :—

Year.	Scheduled Castes.		Backward Classes.		Scheduled Tribes.	
	Stipends.	Book-grants.	Stipends.	Book-grants.	Stipends.	Book-grants.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1960-61 ..	3,05,166	4,350	2,41,686	8,244	6,384	..
1961-62 ..	5,91,717	8,935	3,24,242	830	6,497	..

* The figures are based on the book—Darbhanga Zila-ki-Pargati Azadi-ke Choudah Baras, Public Relations Department, Bihar, pages 25-26.

In Darbhanga district, it should be noted that there is no provision of stipends or book-grants for the tribal students reading in school stage. In Rusera and Narhan there are two Junior Residential Basic Schools for Harijans which are being upgraded to Senior Residential Basic Schools.

Up to the time of Gandhiji's fast over the Communal Award in 1932, Harijan children were not freely admitted in all schools including Government schools, but that is not the case now. There is now no school in the district of Darbhanga or anywhere in the State that refuses to admit Scheduled Castes students. A certain number of seats are also reserved for Harijan students in the local colleges of Darbhanga. In Patna and other Universities of the State Backward Class students of any district including Darbhanga are admitted against the reserved seats provided they obtain 44 per cent marks at the last University Examination or 10 per cent marks lower than those secured by the last admitted candidate on the basis of merit whichever is lower. There is no discrimination in the selection of students sent abroad for foreign study. This gives them an opportunity to come into contact with boys of their age from all over the world which instils sufficient confidence into them to compete when they come back to their native land.

Hostels.—In order to solve the problem of recommendation of the students of these Backward Communities, State Government have sanctioned hostels at the following places for which the expenditure is borne by the Government;—Backward Muslim Community Hostel, Darbhanga, Welfare Hostels at Darbhanga, Dalsingsarai, Samastipur, Madhubani and one Harijan Hostel at Bengali *Tola*, Laheriasarai. The Backward Muslim Community Hostel provides 50 seats, and Harijan Hostel 31 seats and the other hostels provide of 25 seats. The Harijan Hostel has been in existence since 1946 functioning under the Harijan Sevak Sangh. Usually one Superintendent and one cook are provided at every hostel. The house rent and the cost of utensils are borne by the State Government. No seat rent is charged from the students. Every boarder who belongs to Backward Classes also gets a grant of Rs. 20. There is no exclusive reservation to boys of the Backward Classes only. If seats are available, students of other castes are also admitted but they are required to pay seat rent, light charges, etc., just like other hostels and therefore having no facility given to them, they do not like to reside in such hostels. At present there is no caste Hindu student in the Welfare Hostels. The Harijan Sevak Sangh grants a stipend of Rs. 10 to the boarder of caste Hindu in Harijan hostel in the programme of untouchability. But at present, i.e., in 1962 there is no caste Hindu student in the Harijan Hostel at Laheriasarai inspite of this facility given by the Harijan Sevak Sangh.

At the State Ministers' Conference on 'Backward Classes' held in February, 1958 at New Delhi, the following recommendations were made :—

(*i*) There should be no separate institutions, hostels or colonies exclusively for Harijans. In these at least 10 per cent non-Harijans should be taken, as far as possible, to give them mixed character. Non-Harijans up to this number should be given the same facilities as are admissible to Scheduled Castes to encourage them to join such colonies or institutions.

(*ii*) The name 'Harijan' should be removed from the existing institutions, hostels or colonies wherever it exists.

(*iii*) In all general hostels, controlled or assisted by the Government, at least 10 per cent of the seats should be reserved for Harijans.*

These recommendations reflect the view that the hostels should not only provide residential facilities for Backward Class students but should also serve as instruments for the removal of untouchability, segregation and separation that divide the Backward Class students from the rest.

If students are segregated in their most formative years as it is done at present, they are likely to develop a complex, at least of separatism, if not of inferiority. In view of national integration and for removal of untouchability it is desirable that hostels should be common for students of all communities. "The existing hostels should be converted into common general hostels and the names should also be changed. Particular care should be taken to see that in converting these hostels neither the number nor the facilities available to Backward Class students are reduced."† In order to encourage private hostels to admit students from all classes, the Government of Bombay gives special grants to mixed hostels. Such arrangement has not been made in our State so far.

Drinking water facilities.—During the First Five-Year Plan six tube-wells and thirty-six wells at the total cost of Rs. 28,900 and during Second Five-Year Plan 121 tube-wells and 15 wells at the total cost of Rs. 74,118 were sunk from the fund of the Welfare Department in the district of Darbhanga. The Government contributes 75 per cent of the estimated cost and the villagers are required to contribute the remaining in the form of labour, etc. The district needs more wells and tube-wells to meet the

* Report of the Study Team on Social Welfare and Welfare of Backward Classes, Volume I, page 169.

† Report of the Study Team on Social Welfare and Welfare of Backward Classes, Volume I, page 171.

necessity of the Scheduled Castes in particular and people in general. Although these wells are specially sunk in Harijan *bustees*, there is no restriction on the Harijans to use other wells.

Medical facilities.—For bringing medical facilities within easy reach of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes the Welfare Department maintains some *Ayurvedic* dispensaries. Every dispensary has got one *Vaidya* who gets grants for purchasing medicines for free distribution in the area. In 1961-62, 1960-61 and 1959-60, Rs. 4,100, Rs. 2,985 and Rs. 1,100 respectively were granted by the Welfare Department as medical aid and 108, 175 and 105 persons respectively were benefited.

Legal Aid.—In Darbhanga district in 1959-60, 1960-61 and 1961-62 legal aids of Rs. 830, Rs. 4,100 and Rs. 3,940 respectively were granted to 10, 54 and 71 persons belonging to Backward Classes respectively. The Welfare Department generally provides legal aid to indigent Backward Class individuals who may be involved in cases relating to ejectment from land, house site or a house and in money suits.

Training-cum-*Production Centre.*—In Darbhanga district there is one Training-*cum*-Production Centre named B. N. Mallick Industrial Training School at Ryam. This school was taken over by the Welfare Department in 1961-62. In this institution at present there is only one instructor. The training has not commenced yet but there is a programme for training and 12 trainees are to be admitted every year. The duration of course has not as yet been finalised and many other relevant matters are under consideration. At present in this institution the work of *Newar* and carpet weaving is carried out on contract basis. A few observations relating to Training-*cum*-Production Centre, made by the Study Team on Social Welfare and Welfare of Backward Classes, are given here for our information.

> "Though these centres are invariably termed as Training-*cum*-Production Centres, the production side is neglected in almost all of them. In fact, the training centres are not planned for production at all except for the incidental production that takes place during the process of training. In the very nature of the process the volume of production in a training centre cannot be but scanty and the quality is poor. The goods are often unmarketable and even for those which are marketable there is no organised and standing machinery for marking".*

Charitable Endowments.—In order to provide for better administration of Hindu Religious Trusts and for protection and preservation of properties to such trusts in the State of Bihar an Act

*Report of the Study Team on Social Welfare and Welfare of Backward Classes, Volume I, page 158.

known as the Bihar Hindu Religious Trusts Act, 1950 (Bihar Act I of 1951) was passed which came into force on the 15th August 1951. This Act extends to the whole of the State of Bihar. Under section 5(1) the Bihar State Board of Religious Trusts was constituted in August, 1951, the Board consists of seventeen members headed by a President who is nominated and appointed by the Government of Bihar. The term of the office of members as provided in the Act under section 7(3) and section 8(5) is five years. The office of the Board is at Patna. The source of finance of the Board is the trust fund. For the purpose of defraying the expenses incurred or to be incurred in the administration of this Act; under section 70(1) the trustee of every religious trust is required to pay to the Board five per cent of its net income. Here net income means the total income realised by the trustee from all sources after deducting any amount payable as revenue, rent, taxes, local or other cesses and cost of management at twelve and half per cent. Some of the main functions of the Board which are mentioned in detail in section 28(2) of the Act are (*i*) to prepare and maintain a complete record containing full information relating to the origin, nature, extent, income, objects and beneficiaries of the different classes of religious trusts; (*ii*) to give direction for proper administration of a religious trusts; (*iii*) to cause inspection to be made of the property and the office of any religious trusts including accounts, and (*iv*) to remove a trustee from his office if such trustee is convicted of any such offence as implies moral turpitude or who refuses or wilfully disobeys the directions and orders of the Board. For proper implementation of the provisions of the Act there are four Inspectors, one Auditor, one Superintendent and one Assistant Superintendent—all working under the President of the Board. At present the Board functions under the control of Law Department, Government of Bihar.

All public trusts and endowments made by the Hindus in Darbhanga district are governed by this Board. Up to July, 1962, 170 trusts of Darbhanga district have been registered and notices under section 59 have been issued to 825 trustees for submitting statement of income and expenditure. So about 825 trusts are under the process of registration. Besides the Board is also making efforts to discover new trusts for taking them into its fold. Some of the important trusts of public utility in the district of Darbhanga are as follows :—

(1) *Pandol and Pirhi Trusts*.— Shri Chandradhari Singh of village Ranti, pargana Hati, subdivision Madhubani executed a deed of trust of his property worth Rs. 1,00,000 on 23rd November 1949. The Chandradhari Mithila College, Darbhanga—a degree and now a constituent college of Bihar University, has been named after his name because of his generous donation of Rs. 51,000 to the said college. Shri Jagdish Nandan Singh of the same

pargana and subdivision also executed a trust deed on 2nd December 1949 for 786 *bighas*, 8 *kathas* and 11 *dhurs* of land. The Chandradhari Mithila College, Darbhanga has been solely financed by these two trusts—Pandol and Pirhi. As the two trusts have been created purely for educational purposes, they have not been registered.

(2) *Rai Ganga Ram Kameshwar Narain Singh Public Trust, Narhan*.—The trust is perhaps the richest one in the whole district of Darbhanga and a good many institutions such as school, hospital, veterinary dispensary, park, tank, library and museum are maintained by this trust. Students are also granted scholarships from this trust. There is also a scheme to send a brilliant scholar to foreign country to specialise in philosophy or religious literature. The trust has 381 *bighas* of land in addition to zamindari income of Rs. 25,000 annually. In 1959-60 the total income of the trust was Rs. 2,500 after vesting of the zamindari in State Government.

(3) *Mahanth* Awadh Das of Kabir Asthan, Lakshmi Bagicha, Rusera executed a deed of 3 *bighas* and 4 *kathas* of land where the new college of Rusera is functioning.

(4) *Bishunpur Thakur Trust*.—Shri Chhote Prasad Singh, *Sebait* of this trust donated 20 *bighas* of land to Government Hospital, Bishunpur for its proper management. The trust also runs a *goshala* and a basic school.

(5) *Rampura Trust*.—Rampura Trust is running a Sanskrit *Pathshala* and also maintains a Homoeopathic dispensary which gives free medicine to the poor and needy.

In addition to the trusts mentioned above, the Pacharhi Trust, Ganga Sagar Trust, Narghoghi Trust, Mohan Ekdara Trust, and Andhra Tharhi Trust are contributing to or running some schools or other institutions.

(6) *Darbhanga Raj*.—Sir Kameshwar Singh Bahadur, K.C.I.E., executed a deed on the 16th March 1949 of his properties worth Rs. 1,73,136 (annual income derived from zamindary property) and *Bakast* lands of 3,190 *bighas*, 8½ *dhurs*. Out of the income of the properties, the expenses of 81 temples —67 in Darbhanga district, 5 in Banaras, 4 in Kanpur, one in Simla, one in Patna, one in Calcutta, one in Allahabad and one in Muzaffarpur—are borne. Sir Kameshwar Singh has expressly and clearly mentioned in the deed that the trust created by him is his family institution and none except the member of his family has a right to look into the management of the trust. So the trust being family institution has not been registered as the Act does not apply to such institution.

Public Trusts and Endowments made by the Muslims in Darbhanga district are governed by the Bihar *Waqfs* Act, 1947 (Bihar Act 8 of 1948) which came into force on the 1st April, 1948. Under this Act the Bihar Patna *Subai Sunni Majlis-e-Awqaf* was constituted in 1948 with 11 nominated members. The head of the *Majlis* is known as *Sadar* who is appointed by the State Government amongst the nominated members of the *Majlis*. All the powers, functions, sources of finance and tenure of the office of the members of the *Majlis* are the same as in case of the Bihar State Board of Religious Trusts which have been discussed elsewhere.

The total number of registered *waqfs* up to June, 1962 in the whole of Bihar State is 1,072. In Darbhanga district there are about 250 *waqfs* registered up to June, 1962. The approximate value of properties vested in *waqfs* in the Bihar State comes to Rs. 1,42,87,500 and the total annual income is Rs. 12,14,375. Some of the important *waqfs* are mentioned here:—

(1) Masomat Bibi Vilayat, wife of Sujat Ali Khan of Mahalla Raham Khan, Darbhanga executed a registered deed on 31st December, 1886 and dedicated her whole property for the purpose of maintaining a *Mushafirkhana* constructed by her at Darbhanga town and to meet the expenses to be incurred in connection with providing free food to the Doctors of Law and Religion and the *Hafiz* (one who gets the Quran by heart) who may halt there on their way to Mecca.

(2) Masomat Bibi Sahebjadi of village Bilaspur also executed a deed in 1890. The estate has 155 *bighas* of land from which about 5,000 rupees is the annual income. There is also annual *Nagadi* income of Rs. 1,000. Her objects in establishing *waqf* were to give *nazrana* to *Hafiz*, and to give free food to *Warid* and *Sadir* (travellers) and also other charitable works such as to help the poor and needy, *khairat, neyaz, milad,* etc.

(3) *Choudhry Nizam Waqf Estate.*—One Choudhry Nizamuddin executed a registered deed on the 6th January 1908 of 64 *bighas* of land. His object was to spend the income of the property over maintaining a teacher for imparting religious teaching to the poor students and also to provide free food to *Warid* and *Sadir*. The annual income from the land is about Rs. 2,000.

(4) *Bibi Anis Fatma Waqf Estate.*—Masomat Bibi Anis Fatma, wife of Shekh Wazid Hussain of village Sakri, Darbhanga executed a registered deed on 11th August, 1932. The Estate has 22 *bighas*, 4 *kathas* and 6½ *dhurs* of land in addition to *Nagdi* income of Rs. 298 per year. Her object in creating the *waqf* Estate was for the upkeep of

Sagarpur Mosque, to observe the festival *Shab-e-Barat* and to give alms to the poor, etc.

(5) *Masomat Bibi Kanij Fatma Waqf Estate.*—One Masomat Bibi Kanij Fatma, wife of Shri Fazlur Rahman of village Gopalpur Osanthi, Darbhanga executed a registered deed on 23rd August 1945 of 363 *bighas*, 15 *kathas* and 3 *dhurs* of land and annual *mandi* income of three thousand. The objects were to give aid to Muslim School, Darbhanga, *Yatim Khana, Imambara* and *Madarsas.*

(6) *Jama (Central) Maszid, Katiki Bazar, Darbhanga.*—Masomat Bibi Vulayat Begam of Darbhanga got the *Jama Masjid* constructed about hundred years back (as stated). The income of the mosque is about Rs. 3,000 per year which comes from rent of the shops and houses attached with the mosque. With this income the mosque is properly maintained.

The financial position of the *Bihar Subai Sunni Majlis-e-Awaqaf* seems to be somewhat weak. This *Majlis* also does not receive any aid from the Government. After the abolition of zamindari the property dedicated to Waqf Estate also vested with the State Government. Under section 24 of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950 the State Government is required to fix annuity for the maintenance of the *waqf* or religious trusts, but as yet annuity has not been fixed and it has been one of the reasons that weakened the financial position of the *Majlis.*

It may be mentioned here that the abolition of zamindari and the present trend of bringing in a socialistic pattern of society will have a freezing effect on the well-to-do classes to make fresh charitable trusts. The trusts so far had been mostly created by the zamindars and middle classes of higher income group.

Public Life—Public life in a district is a reflection and the cumulative effect of the social trends and if one may say so of the cultural background of the area. It is not possible for a district to have a distinct public life in a broader sense and this must be linked up with the public life of the State and the country at large to a great extent. It is not possible to define or describe public life in a few sentences. The various socio-economic factors, the educational and cultural background, civic sense, traditions, heritage and various other factors of the area go to determine the trends in public life. The type of administration of the State Government has also to play a big role in moulding public life. Schools and colleges, teachers and the taught, newspapers, books, libraries, public platforms,

political groups and social organisations also help very considerably in moulding what is meant by public life. Public life in a district or in a State cannot be parochial or limited within the geographical limits of the district. Transport, communications and newspapers have brought every district much closer to the other districts of the State and to the country at large. The consciousness of belonging to one country and one nation is at the background of an emotional integration in the area and teaches the lesson that no district or a State has an exclusive culture as an indigenous product but that every district and every State take ideas from others and confer ideas on them as well.

Culturally Darbhanga is an ancient area. The traditions and cultural past of Mithila area are deep and ramified. A long list of identified and well-known Sanskrit writers of Mithila from the middle of the 15th century and the descriptive account of them will be found in the History of Tirhut by Shyam Narain Singh.* Maithil poets, philosophers and grammarians have also been described in that book at great length. Mithila has been the home of *Nya*, *Smriti* and poetry particularly both in Sanskrit and in Maithil languages. The culture of Mithila was not exclusively the product of that area but had imbibed largely from the cultural and religious trends from Bengal and Assam on one side and Nepal on the other. In a similar manner Maithil writings had spread far to Bengal, Assam and Nepal. Mithila was culturally close to Nawadwip (Nadia), Kamrup (Gauhati) and Kathmandu. The immortal poet Vidyapati who may be placed at the beginning of the 15th century had so much influenced Bengal that for a long time he was taken to be a poet of Bengal. Dr. Grierson has mentioned that Vidyapati's poems had become great favourites of the more modern Vaishanava reformers of Bengal like Chaitanya through whom the songs purported to be of Vidyapati had become as well known in a Bengal household as the Bible to an English one.

The impact of this rich tradition and culture may be seen on the average man of Mithila. He is quite conscious of the past and rather prone to be conservative to a degree. The very fact that Saurath *mela* described elsewhere is still existing and fixes up marriages according to horoscopes and the Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga has the prerogative of outcasting a Maithil Brahmin on social grounds shows that public life of this area is rather tradition-bound and more associated with the keeping up of the past. This is probably the only district in the State of Bihar where Sanskrit Pandits in the real sense are still found in a good number. There are still villages within a few miles of a town like Mangrauni where time stands still and the village has kept up the stamp of the old traditions to a very large extent. Brahmins who do not wear any sewn garments and can converse in Sanskrit very fluently are not

* History of Tirhut by Shri Shyam Narain Singh, page 212 (Calcutta), 1922.

uncommon in Darbhanga district. There are priests who have memorised portions of Vedas and the whole of Gita and can recite with faultless pronunciation. This is a district where in spite of centuries of western education most of the old customs are being retained in the Maithil pockets and naturally public life has had a particular stamp till the Congress Movement tore down the barriers to a very great extent.

Darbhanga district had also the privilege of having a continuous patronage of the present house of Raj Darbhanga since a pretty long time. Tirhut which covers Darbhanga with the rest of India had passed with the rest of India from the British East India Company to the British Crown in the year 1858. But long before the British rule had been consolidated, the present Darbhanga House had been prominent in Darbhanga. The family of the Maharaja of Darbhanga is a descendant from one Maheshwar Thakur who was a man of great learning and erudition and Mughal Emperor Akbar conferred upon him the grant of what is now known as the Darbhanga Raj.* After receiving the grant of Emperor Akbar, Maheshwar Thakur settled down with his family at Bhowrah in the Darbhanga district. When the Permanent Settlement of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa was concluded by Lord Cornwallis in 1790, Raja Madho Singh's right to Darbhanga Raj was reiterated by special terms. Since then the line has been continuing and has conferred active patronage and support to the development of art, literature and science and has contributed substantially to the shaping of public life.

The landed aristocracy of this district has not been at all antagonistic to the national movement. The Darbhanga house has been remarkable in this respect. The Darbhanga Maharaja had been a very prominent member of the Land-holders' Associations in Bihar and Bengal. Loyal to the British Crown the Darbhanga family has liberally contributed whenever requested by the British Administration. At the same time the family has liberally supported the Congress Movement from the very beginning. Maharaja Lakshmeshwar Singh of Darbhanga sympathised with the Congress and from the very first year of its inception (1885) he made it a rule to give a sum of Rs. 10,000 to the late A. O. Hume, the Chief Organiser of the Congress Party, as an anonymous friend. There was an unforgettable incident in 1888 when the 4th session of the Congress was to be held at Allahabad. Lord Dufferin, the then Viceroy and Sir Auckland Colvin, the Lt. Governor of the then North-Western Provinces had openly thrown their weight against the Congress. The civil and military authorities were not allowing any site to the reception committee to hold the Congress session in Allahabad. Pandit Ayodhaya Nath, the Chairman of the reception committee approached Mahajara Lakshmeshwar Singh who at once purchased overnight the castle with an extensive

* History of Tirhut by Shri Shyam Narain Singh, page 212.

ground just in front of Government House where Sir Auckland Colvin lived and placed the castle at the disposal of the Congress to hold its meeting.

Even when Gandhiji was working in Natal in 1897 the Maharaja wanted to know how he could help Gandhiji in his mission and Gandhiji used to keep the Maharaja posted with the developments there. Maharaja Lakshmeshwar Singh was glowingly referred to by Shri Ananda Mohan Bose, the President of the 14th Session of the Congress held at Madras in 1898. He had said "Can memory fail to go back at this moment to that scene when two years ago he (Maharaja Lakshmeshwar Singh) came to the Congress pavilion at Calcutta, the last he lived to attend and the whole assembly rose as a man with an enthusiasm that knew no bounds to welcome this true friend alike of the Government and the people."*

This generosity and sympathy for national cause has been manifest in other spheres also. The Darbhanga house has contributed very liberally to the Calcutta University and the Patna University when they were founded. The Medical College in Patna and a large number of other cultural institutions all over the country have received liberal contributions from the Darbhanga Raj. In the recent decades the Darbhanga house has sponsored "Indian Nation" and the "Aryavarta", two leading dailies of Bihar in English and Hindi. These papers have helped to shape public life of Bihar. Even after the abolition of zamindary when Darbhanga Estate was taken over by the State Government the Raj has liberally contributed to various causes. Recently very valuable properties have been made over for the Sanskrit University at Darbhanga. The Darbhanga Raj Library at Darbhanga is one of the richest libraries in the country.†

The struggle for political freedom that had swept over the country since the beginning of the 20th century starting with the *Swadeshi* agitation in Bengal, manifest in a combined opposition by the Champaran *raiyats* against the indigo plantation in the first decade of the 20th century a trend which was taken up by Gandhiji in 1916 as his first struggle in India and then the Non-Co-operation Movement in all its phases have had their impact on this district as well. Darbhanga has always been in close touch with Bengal and the Raj Secretariat in the key posts at one time was practically manned by Bengalis and naturally the *Swadeshi* agitation in Bengal was closely followed in this district. Newspapers of Calcutta in Bengali and English were eagerly read by the people of Darbhanga during the trials of the *Swadeshi* cases. Unaided by

* An article about the Contribution of the Darbhanga Raj family to National Movement "Indian Nation", 4th January 1962).

† It is very unfortunate that Maharajadhiraj Sir Kameshwar Singh passed away at a comparatively young age on 1st October 1962.

any outside help the peasantry of Bettiah subdivision had combined and had refused to cultivate indigo in the first decade which led to a widespread oppression in the hands of the police and the planters. Darbhanga also had a large number of indigo plantations under the Europeans and the movement in Champaran was closely followed in this district. When Gandhiji took up the cause of the indigo *raiyats* and started his agitation in Champaran district, he had a few men of Darbhanga district like Braj Kishore Prasad, Dharni Dhar and others as his camp followers. The ultimate triumph of Gandhiji in having an Act passed safeguarding the interests of the indigo *raiyats* was a land mark and had its impact on this district as well.

Before Gandhiji sponsored Non-Co-operation Movement Bihar had seen quite a few provincial political and students' conferences. One of the conferences held at Bhagalpur in 1917 was presided by Gandhiji. A batch of youngmen like Rajendra Prasad and others who had witnessed or taken part as young students in the *Swadeshi* agitation in Calcutta organised the Students' Associations and Conferences throughout Bihar. The first phase of the political conferences was as is common with the other provinces, more or less, sponsored by the Moderates. These conferences although in the hands of mostly lawyers and zamindars did go a long way in preparing the ground to make the people politically conscious. Gandhiji's Non-Co-operation Movement from the very beginning has had a very big response in Bihar as his name had already become so famous even in the villages because of his agitation in Champaran in connection with the indigo cultivation. A number of men who had already started being counted in Bihar like Rajendra Prasad, Anugrah Narain Sinha, Sri Krishna Sinha, Dharni Dhar, Braj Kishore Prasad joined Gandhiji from the very inception of Non-Co-operation Movement.

The Non-Co-operation Movement in all its subsequent phases had literally swept Darbhanga district. The students of Darbhanga district had joined the movement in large numbers and the local leaders made an example of themselves by courting arrests and imprisonment off and on. From 1919 to 1942 Darbhanga's public life was in a melting point because of the great political agitation.

The August Movement of 1942 was carried through in a grim manner and while on one side railway lines were dislocated, telegraph wires were cut off and police-stations were burnt, on the other side there were firing, indiscriminate arrests, seizure and even destruction of Congress offices. A youngman Kanak Lal Jha started holding courts and deciding cases at the Darbhanga Raj Cutchery at Rusera which had previously been occupied by the mob. In his trial before the Sessions Judge the accused admitted the alleged acts and challenged the rights of the Tribunal to try him.*

* Judgment of Appellate Court, Court of Sessions in Criminal Appeal no. 326 of 1943, judgment delivered on the 17th August 1943 by J.I. Blackburn, Sessions Judge, Darbhanga.

There is no doubt that the Congress Movement and the subsequent attainment of Independence by the country have shaped public life in this district as in other districts in Bihar to a very great extent. The fear-complex of the people against the bureaucracy was broken, mass contact was established and the force of combination was fully illustrated but at the same time since independence has been won, there has been an unfortunate complacence and a sense of indiscipline almost throughout North Bihar and Darbhanga district is no exception. This sense of indiscipline is quite noticeable amongst the students and lower ranks of civil service. Law is often taken into own hands by the mass and rights without any regard to obligations are often insisted on. Roof riding on the trains and travelling without tickets have become far too common and have shaped into a formidable administrative problem. Only in the month of August, 1962 about 3,000 people boarded the train in Rusera in this district on the *Sombari mela* day. Most of them were without tickets. The mob in the train resented when the driver refused to start the train as the load was far too heavy for the engine. The mob damaged the Rusera railway station and the train and assaulted the railway staff. The police who were deployed were also overwhelmed by the sheer strength of the mob and had to retreat. This lawlessness was discussed in a specially convened meeting presided over by the Chief Minister of Bihar on the 26th August 1962. The educationists are doubtful if the vast number of students in the schools and colleges running to more than thousands have contributed to a better public life or not. Civic sense and regard for discipline are often unfortunately not very marked in the present day public life but this seems to be a passing phase. This phase now is far too manifest in this district.

It will, however, be a mistake to think that the contribution of the Darbhanga house has been the only inspiration for shaping public life in this district. The middle classes of the district, educated intelligentsia, the teachers and the lawyers have had a very large share in moulding public life. The Planters, Christian Missionaries, the Moulvis and the Hindu priests have also helped in giving wholesome touches to what is cumulatively known as public life. The Secretariat of the Darbhanga Raj in the late 19th and early 20th Century had quite a few notable gentlemen whose progeny have enriched literature and public life in Bihar and Bengal. There have been quite a few prominent Hindu, Bengali and Urdu writers, novelists, poets and critics who were born and brought up in this district. The *Seresta* of Darbhanga Raj had valuable records and offered a rich ground for research.

One particular feature of public life in Darbhanga district is the liberal outlook, literacy and culture of the womenfolk. From a long time past the women of Darbhanga district and particularly the Maithil ladies have been known for their love of literature, art,

music and painting. Even in *purdah*, the incidence of literacy among the Maithil women is particularly high. They are experts in culinary art and in drawing *aripans* on the floor.* They love inside decoration as far as possible. Many of the Maithil ladies are known to be poets and artists. Some of the specimens of their painting and *aripans* at villages like Mangrauni in Madhubani subdivision could hold their own anywhere in the country. Some of these features have been discussed separately on the text 'People'. What is sought to be underlined here is that there has not been a lop-sided educational incidence among the males only in this district. The ladies have preserved the exquisite folk songs.

It may be mentioned that as a result of the social and political tension following the last Great War and the achievement of Independence mainly through the efforts of the Congress Party, there has been a somewhat change in the previous conception of social adjustments. Money and politics have received a somewhat superior position in society and public life has been changed to a great extent allowing this adjustment. The present position of a teacher in comparison to the position he held two or three decades back is an illustration. Politics has entered into the precincts of the schools, colleges and the universities. Politics has also entered into the *Gram Panchayats* and the elections in those bodies are not exactly what was expected. There is a tendency to give far more importance to the politicians and the members of the Legislatures than to teachers, scientists and civil servants. In the new democracy this trend is not unexpected but the sooner a proper adjustment is made the better will be for the shaping of a more healthy public life. The lead in the present circumstances has obviously to come from those who held the top places in life. Leadership should continue to come from the middle classes.

Newspapers.—Newspapers have had a great hold on the people here. Since 1908 ***Mithila Mihir***, a weekly in Maithil language, has been a popular journal. This paper usually publishes short stories, poems and folk songs particularly depicting Mithila's rural life and social changes. ***Mithila Mihir*** is now being published from Patna. Another popular Hindi monthly *Balak* for the children was sponsored by Pustak Bhandar of Laheriasarai in 1926. This paper is also now published from Patna. A number of papers had been started in the thirties of the 20th Century but were closed down. Some of them are ***Hunkar, Dharam Bir, Khadi Sevak, Kayastha Hitaishi, Rauniyar Vaishya, Kishore, Praja Sevak*** and ***Jive Daya***.

There are four weekly Hindi papers, namely, ***Darbhanga Samachar, Tirhut Samachar, Lal Sher, Saptahik Makhana***. These papers have a very limited circulation. They usually feature local news and short articles. ***Makhana Samachar*** is interested in the

*Ornate designs drawn on the floor with powdered rice and lintels, etc.

cultivation or turnover of *Makhana*—a kind of waterberry exclusively grown in this district. This paper has very limited purpose. There are five monthly papers, namely, *Nutan Vishwa*, *Vishwa Santi*, *Videha*, *Vaidehi* and *Ikh Samachar*. The first two papers are not being published now (1962). The other papers have a very limited circulation. The *Vaidehi* is published in Maithil language and has been in existence since 1957. The *Ikh Samachar* is interested in the cultivation or turnover of sugarcane and has a very small circulation.

Quami-Tanzim and *Al Hoda* are two Urdu fortnightly papers which have a local small circulation. The *Quami-Tanzim* was started in 1960 and *Al Hoda* in 1959. Moreover, there is one quarterly Urdu periodical named *Raf-Tar-e-Nawa*. This periodical has been in existence since November, 1960. Besides these, *Sada-e-Am*, *Sangam* and *Sathi* are Urdu daily newspapers published from Patna which have a good circulation in Darbhang district. *Sada-e-Am* is very popularly read in this district.

There are several English dailies published elsewhere that have a fair circulation in the district. They are the *Indian Nation* and the *Searchlight* published from Patna, the *Statesman*, the *Hindusthan Standard* and the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* published from Calcutta. Among the English weeklies and periodicals published elsewhere that have some circulation mention may be made of *Blitz*, the *Illustrated Weekly* and *Careers and Courses*. The *Aryavarta*, the *Pradeep* and the *Navarashtra*, the three Hindi dailies published from Patna have also a fair circulation in the district. Some Hindi periodicals published elsewhere, namely, *Dharmayug*, *Hindusthan*, *Maya*, *Manohar*, *Manorma* have also some sale. The two Bengali dailies of Calcutta, *Ananda Bazar Patrika* and *Yugantar* have also good circulation.

Social Service Organisations.—Social Service Organisations in pre-Independence days were mostly voluntary although some of them used to receive State aid. Whenever there was a major crisis like a widespread epidemic, flood, famine or earthquake the State Government in pre-Independence days had come to the rescue of the people and had liberally made contributions for relief. The problem of the great Bihar Earthquake of 1934 which had ravaged Darbhanga district was met by both the people and the State. The Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga, the Central Relief Committee under Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the Calcutta Mayor's Fund and various other purely voluntary relief organisations had rushed their help to this district. The State Government had also placed funds liberally and ultimately relief work was carried out by joint efforts of the Government and Dr. Rajendra Prasad and his helpers.

Even as late as 1944-45 when there were widespread flood havoc and depredation of kala-azar and malaria in this district relief bodies from Bombay had come and worked in the interior of

the district. From time to time the Servants of India Society, Ram Krishna Mission, etc., had rendered help to this district in times of crisis. There were also a few static voluntary social organisations. Orphanages, leper homes, homes for the blind in pre-Independence days were run more on voluntary basis. Quite a large number of charitable trusts and endowments were founded by the aristocracy and the rich. A purse of Rs. 50,000 was raised and presented to Sir John Rutherford, Governor of Bihar when he visited Rusera, Kusheswarasthan and Samastipur in 1944. The entire money was made over by the Governor to the Samastipur Hospital Fund. It cannot be said that the social obligations were not discharged by the zamindars or the rich businessmen if they were properly tackled.

It is after Independence and the abolition of the *zamindari* that the source of such voluntary social organisations has almost dried up. On the other hand, the State has stepped into the vacuum and has been liberally patronising a number of social service organisations started voluntarily. There are now quite a number of social organisations which draw liberal help from the State Government, Central Government or such Boards as Central Social Welfare Board, etc. There is a danger of overlapping and the danger of misuse of money because many of these funds are not audited quickly. There have been complaints not only in this district but also in other districts that the money so placed with the social organisations is not always properly utilised. Recently the Study Team on Social Welfare and Welfare of Backward Classes in their Report at page 9 has suggested that there should be a system of recognition of welfare institutions based upon their satisfying certain specific minimum standards.

Some of these organisations are mentioned below :—

The Maharani-Adhirani Kameshwari Priya Poor Home, Darbhanga.—This institution was established in 1940 with the object to "do social and humanitarian service by bringing about moral, material, and educational uplift of the down-trodden people specially destitute persons, beggars, abandoned children, widows and infirm persons, to help the suffering humanity by providing them with shelter and helping them to pick up independent means of livelihood so as to lead a pure, moral, healthy and happy life."*

The institution runs a number of sections—general or technical—for the inmates of the Home and seeks to prevent professional begging by educating public opinion. Propaganda is made by means of charts, leaflets, pamphlets, slides films, posters, etc., and motor vans against begging.

Technical School.—The school provides technical training in cottage industries to both literate and illiterate persons, specially

*C.F.—Constitution & Bye-laws of the Maharani-Adhirani Kameshwari Priya Poor Home, Darbhanga.

the orphans and the destitute children. Training is given in dyeing, weaving and tailoring. In 1962-63, 18 students received training. Almost all the trainees are the inmates of the Poor Home. There is also provision for 7 scholarships of 7 rupees each per month for poor students.

Blind School.—In 1962, there are 31 students. All the inmates are given free board and lodge. They are also given three rupees per month for pocket expenses. The school has also a library consisting of about two hundred religious books and novels in Brail letters. There are three teachers. At present education is given up to Middle standard. But the Home aims to upgrade this school to Matric standard. The blind inmates are also given training in cane-work and music.

Montessory School.—There are about 40 young boys and girls who are taught by means of modern technique.

Hospital.—In July, 1955, the Charitable Hospital section was established. From 1955 to April, 1962, 189,729 patients were benefited from this hospital. The average attendance of patients is about 150.The staff of the hospital consists of one M.B., B.S. doctor and 3 L. M. P. doctors and three compounders.

Netra Dan (Eye-Camps).—In winter free catarach-operations are held by qualified doctors. The eye-patients are given free board, lodge and medicine during the period of their treatment. Very poor patients are also given spectacles at a very low price or even free of cost. From 1944 to 1960, 32,922 eye-operations were undertaken with a total expenditure of Rs. 2,75,000. The expenditure is met by the aid received from State Government, local bodies and by public contribution.

One middle school is also run by the Poor Home in which about 300 students receive free education. The expenditure is met by the Darbhanga Municipality. There is also one girls' primary school whose expenditure is also borne by the municipality. There is also one social centre for women under the management of the Poor Home. This centre receives grant-in-aid from the Central Social Welfare Board. There is also one *Ambar Khadi* section. Twenty *Ambar Charkhas* have been distributed so far and the products are sold to the *Khadi Bhandar*.

The Poor Home has been registered. It has a staff consisting of 23 persons, headed by an Honorary General Secretary Shri Dharm Lal Singh. All the institutions functioning under the Poor Home are financed by the Poor Home Fund whose source of income is donation, Government grants and house rents.

In the Poor Home in 1962 there were 75 inmates including 31 blind inmates. All are provided with free board, lodge, clothes and other primary necessities of life. They are also given free education and training in cottage industries in order to enable them to earn their livelihood.

Yatim Khana Islamia, Laheriasarai, Darbhanga.—This institution was started in 1905 and is an orphanage for the Muslim boys. The institution is run on the contributions received from the public. There is a Managing Committee of 13 members with one secretary and one president to look after the institution. In 1962 there were 25 inmates who were provided with free board, lodge and necessities of life. They are also given education in religious teaching. The institution also provides for giving them training in crafts like tailoring, etc.

Madarsa Ahmadia Salfia.—This institution has been affiliated to Bihar Madarsa Examination Board, Patna in the year 1940. It teaches up to the standard of *Fazil* (the highest degree) in Arabic, Urdu and Persian. In 1962 there were 200 students out of whom 110 students are given free board and lodge. There are 16 teachers including one Principal.

Madarsa Imdadia, Laheriasarai, Darbhanga.—This *Madarsa* was established in 1882. This institution also prepares its students for *Fazil* Examination in Arabic literature only. In 1962, there were 125 students out of whom 80 students were given free board, lodge and education. No tution fee is charged from student. The staff consists of 10 *Fazils.*

Madarsa Hamidia, Quila Ghat, Darbhanga.—This institution was established in 1880 and is said to be the oldest one in the district of Darbhanga. In 1962 there are 120 students out of whom 30 students get free board and lodge. It gives free education to all. It teaches up to *Fazil* standard. The present staff consists of nine teachers. The expenses of the institution are met by public contribution. The institution is housed in its own *pucca* building. It has a hostel in which 21 students are accommodated. There is one *Jama Masjid* attached to this institution. This mosque is said to date back to Mugal period.

Madarsa Islamia, Jhagurua Masjid, Darbhanga.—The *Madarsa* was established in 1905. This institution was closed for some time due to financial hardship It was re-started and has been functioning continuously since 1956. In 1962 there are only 40 students out of whom 14 students are provided free board and lodge. No fee is charged from any student. The staff consists of two *Maulvis.*

SOCIAL SERVICES, ETC.

A number of institutions have recently been sponsored in Darbhanga district with the object of doing social services. They are, more or less, dependant on Government help or on the aid given by Central Social Welfare Board, Bharat Sevak Samaj and such other institutions either at the Centre or at the State level. While collecting information the investigator was rather diffident if a proper contribution was given by all of them but it was no

thought proper for our purposes to make a critical study as to the implementation of the object.

Sarvodaya Mahila Charkha Samiti was sponsored in 1956 with the object to train ladies in the craft of *charkha*. From January, 1962 a middle school for girls has been started. It was found that there is only one lady (*Sanchalika*) who manages all the affairs. The institution receives liberal grants from the Central Social Welfare Board and the State Government. The institution claims to have trained about 150 ladies in using either *ambar* or ordinary *charkha*.

In the rural areas under the National Extension Programme a number of *Mahila Mandal* (Women Welfare Organisation) have been started. The aims are very wide and cover running literacy centres, social education centres, teaching crafts, etc. It was gathered that such *Mahila Mandals* have been started at Musapur, Dighra, Gorayi, Piprahi, Aahar, Hathwi, Dumri, Raghopur, Madhwapur, Shekhopur and Narhan, etc. It was, however, gathered that those institutions were absolutely at an initial stage and do not appear to have yet made much of contribution to the implementation of the aims and objects.

Harijan Sevak Sangh.—A branch of the All-India Harijan Sevak Sangh was started in Darbhanga in 1936. There is a District Committee consisting of 15 members out of which several are Harijans. The Sangh arranges for public meetings and propaganda work through published literature. There are workers for this purpose. An inter-caste marriage between a Maithil Brahman boy and a Chamar girl at village Arout, P.-S. Rusera was solemnised in 1956 through the efforts of Harijan Sevak Sangh. It is understood that not only the caste-men of the bridegroom but also the Chamars and other Harijans opposed the inter-caste marriage.

The Sangh has started two Co-operative Societies in the municipal areas of Madhubani and Samastipur for the sweepers. The Co-operative Societies advance loans at a nominal rate of interest. The Sangh also makes propaganda against the consumption of intoxicants.

Bharat Sevak Samaj.—The district branch of Bharat Sevak Samaj, an All-India Organisation, was organised in 1953. This institution has a regular office and separate sections under a Secretary, Convenor and a Committee. Active members are expected to work for six hours in a week and the ordinary members for two hours. The Samaj runs a library and some night schools. The Samaj also tries to stop corruption in the Government offices.

Akhil Musahar Seva Mandal, Rusera.—This institution was originally financed by Gandhi *Smarak Nidhi*, New Delhi, and now the

Mandal receives a substantial grant from the State Government of Bihar. Social *melas* for educating people and to wake up the members of the scheduled castes are organised. Literature are also published and a Harijan residential middle school is run at Rusera. This institution has its headquarters at Rusera and their activities are extended to the districts other than Darbhanga as well in Tirhut Division. There are paid propagandists and instructors.

Asprisyata Nivaran Seva Kutir, Madhubani.—This is a newly sponsored institution with purposes similar to those of Musahar Seva Mandal or Harijan Sevak Sangh. It has not started functioning properly and the institution is seeking aid from the State Government.

Arya Samaj.—The Arya Samaj *Mandir* was established in 1921 at Laheriasarai. Essentially a religious institution which aims at the revival of vedic culture, the founder Sri Dayanand Swami laid a good deal of stress on social service. The Arya Samaj of Laheriasarai has interested itself in widow-marriage, inter-caste marriage, rehabilitating helpless and abandoned women and children, cremation of the unclaimed dead bodies of Hindus, etc. The Samaj also runs a girls' middle school at Laheriasarai and has branches at Madhubani, Samastipur, Rusera, Bathua, Tajpur, Jainagar and Kamtaul. The contribution of the Samaj since its establishment in 1921 has been considerable.

Bhoodan Movement.—The Bhoodan Movement was started in 1951 by Sri Vinoba Bhave. It seeks to bring about a peaceful agrarian revolution in the country. The movement consists of the collection of land from big land owners as gift and the distribution of the same to the landless persons. Describing the aims of the movement, Vinoba Bhave had mentioned that in a just and equitable order of society, land must belong to all and that is why he did not beg for gifts but demanded a share to which the poor are rightly entitled. The main objective is to propagate the right thought, by which social and economic mal-adjustments could be corrected without serious conflicts. In its practical application Bhoodan takes the shape of asking for voluntary donations of one-sixth of the land for re-distribution among the landless and distribution takes place at village meetings at which villagers decide whose need is the greatest. The gift should be given to a landless person belonging to the village and who would cultivate it himself.

The Bhoodan office was established at Laheriasarai, Darbhanga in January, 1957. Up to July, 1962, 29,342 acres of land were collected as gift out of which 13,974 acres of land were distributed among 24,264 landless persons. Out of 24,264 beneficiaries,

10,287 are Harijans and the remaining beneficiaries belong to Backward Classes and Caste-Hindus. The land not distributed is either under the possession of the land owner or has some legal complications in acquiring it. Vinoba Bhave visited this district in 1953 and again in 1960 and the people of Darbhanga responded heartily to his call.

Akhil Bhartiya Maithil Maha Sabha, Darbhanga.—This institution has been in existence for about 52 years. Its aim is to eradicate the social evil among the Maithil Brahmins and Karan-Kayasthas of Darbhanga district. There are also some local committees for carrying out the social programme of the Sabha in Maithil pockets. With the spread of Western education and the modern trends against casteism, the Sabha has tried to be eclectic to some extent. The Sabha is against dowry system, polygamy and child-marriage.

General Elections.

The first General Election on the basis of adult franchise was held in the district of Darbhanga in 1952. It was a new experiment in the political history of India. Previously in the elections either in any local bodies or in any Assembly or Council, there were restrictions of property, tax, educational qualification, etc., and naturally franchise was limited to a small percentage of the people. Adult franchise the great feature of 1952 election provided equal opportunities for men and women, scheduled castes and others to exercise their right of franchise. The first General Elections, after Independence was achieved, had a pointed significance.

General Election of 1952.

Legislative Assembly.—In the 1952 General Election there were 27 constituencies for Bihar *Vidhan Sabha* out of which 5 were plural (double) and 22 were single constituencies in the district of Darbhanga. The political parties that participated in the election for the 32 seats were, the Congress, Socialist, Communist, Ram Raj Parishad, Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party, and Jansaugh. Besides 71 independent candidates contested the 28 Assembly seats out of whom two were elected. The results of the 1952 General Election* with regard to the Assembly seats have been given at the end of the chapter (Statement marked A).

Parliamentary seats. –In the General Election of 1952 the following were the four Parliamentary Constituencies in the district of Darbhanga:—

(1) Samastipur East,
(2) Darbhanga Central,
(3) Darbhanga East,
(4) Darbhanga North.

*The figures relating to results of General Election, 1952 have been taken from Report on General Elections, 1952. Vol. II (Government Publication).

Besides two constituencies were in common with parts of Muzaffarpur and Bhagalpur districts. All the four constituencies were single-member constituencies. Only two parties—the Congress and Socialist—contested the Election with regard to Parliamentary seats. Besides, six independent candidates also contested the five Parliamentary seats unsuccessfully. Only candidates belonging to the Congress party were elected for the Parliament. A chart of the details of this election is given at the end of the chapter marked A(*i*).

General Election of 1957.

The General Election of 1957 was another land-mark in the history of Parliametary Democracy in India. The Second Election in comparison with the First Election of 1952 was better planned and more systematically organised. Seats were reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the basis of their population as determined by the Census Commissioner. The *status quo* was maintained in respect of the number of seats assigned to the Legislative Assembly of the State. In the second General Election the poll was completed within a fortnight while in the first General Election it took three weeks to complete the poll. The percentage of polling in the Second General Election was 40.66 against 40.6 in the first General Election in the State of Bihar.

Legislative Assembly.—The Second General Election was held in 1957 on the basis of the electoral rolls made in 1952 and in the subsequent years. For keeping an up-to-date record of the electorates there is one District Election Office at the district headquarters with its subordinate subdivisional election offices. The Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies were delimited afresh on the basis of the latest census figures of 1951 under the provisions in Articles 82 and 170(3) of the Constitution.

According to this there were 27 constituencies out of which four were double-member constituencies and 23 were single member constituencies for Legislative Assembly for the 1957 General Election in the district of Darbhanga. The parties that participated in this election were the Congress, Praja Socialist Party, Communist, Janta and Jan Sangh. Besides, 51 independent candidates also contested unsuccessfully 28 seats. The results of the 1957 General Election* in respect of Assembly seats are given at the end of the chapter (marked B).

Parliamentary Election of 1957.—In the General Election of 1952 for the House of People, there were four Parliamentary constituencies,

*The figures of the results of General Election, 1957, have been taken from Report on General Election in Bihar 1957.

namely, Jainagar, Madhubani, Samastipur and Darbhanga. Out of these four constituencies, Darbhanga was a double-member constituency. All the seats were captured by the Congress Party. The contesting parties were Praja Socialist, Communist, Janta and Congress. Five independent candidates also contested four parliamentary seats but with no success. The results of the election in respect of Parliamentary seats in Darbhanga district were as follows:—

Name of the constituency.	Total number of electors.	Number of electors who voted.			Percentage of votes to total electorate.	Nos. of votes rejected.	No. of candidates who forfeited deposit.	No. of candidates nominated.	No. of contesting candidates.	Party affiliation.	No. of valid votes polled in favour of each candidate.
		Men.	Women.	Total.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES.											
Samastipur ..	3,46,226	..	..	1,66,899	..	..	..	..	4	Independent	7,974
										Independent	23,146
										P. S. P. ..	46,505
										Congress ..	89,274 Elected.
Darbhanga Double-seated ..	7,88,334	..	..	1,61,707	..	..	..	..	6	Independent	26,134
										P. S. P. ..	64,041
										Congress	Uncontested Elected.
										Congress	1,57,711 Elected.
										Independent	25,046
										Independent	50,469
Jainagar ..	4,10,604	..	..	1,78,877	..	..	..	..	3	Congress	88,946 Elected.
										Communist	72,398
										Independent	17,533
Madhubani ..	4,04,430	..	..	1,74,556	..	..	..	..	3	Congress	80,754 Elected.
										Janta	18,144
										P.S.P.	75,658

General Election of 1962.

With a view to avoid the chances of adopting unfair means, a new technique in casting vote was adopted. Previously, there were as many ballot boxes as there were candidates to contest the election and the voter was required to cast the ballot paper in the ballot box of the candidate of his choice. But this time there was only one ballot box for all the contesting candidates and the voter was required to tick mark against the symbol of the party or person of the ballot paper. Moreover, this time the poll was completed within a week.

Legislative Assembly.—In the district of Darbhanga there were 31 single-member constituencies for Legislative Assembly. Out of which two constituencies, namely, Darbhanga West and Jainagar were reserved for Scheduled Castes. The contesting parties that participated in the General Election of 1962 were the Congress, Praja Socialist Party, Jan Sangh, Swatantra, and Socialist. This time only 25 independent candidates contested the election with no success. The details about the results of the Third General Election in respect of Assembly seats of Darbhanga district are given at the end of the chapter marked (C).

The position of the political parties at the General Elections will be apparent from the following chart:—

TABLE I.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Year in which the General Election was held.	Constituency.		Total number of seats.	Number of seats won by the parties.	
	Single-member.	Double-member.			
1	2	3	4	5	
1952	22	5	32	Congress	27
				Socialist	3
				Independent	2
1957	23	4	31	Congress	29
				P. S. P.	2
1962	31	Nil	31	Congress	22
				P. S. P.	5
				Communist	3
				Swatantra	1

TABLE II.

PARLIAMENT.

Year in which the election was held.	Total number of seats.	Number of seats won by the party.	
1952	4	Congress	4
1957	5	Congress	5
1962	4	Congress P. S. P.	3 1

In 1952 General Election there were two more Parliamentary Constituencies, namely, Muzaffarpur-*cum*-Darbhanga and Darbhanga-*cum*-Bhagalpur out of which the former was a double member constituency. All the three seats of the two above mentioned constituencies were won by the Congress Party. In 1962 General Election in Darbhanga district two more single-member constituencies, namely, Rusera and Mahua were in common with some parts of Muzaffarpur and Saharsa districts. These two Parliamentary seats were also won by the Congress Party.

The above figures show that the number of seats won by the Congress Party in the 1962 General Election in the district of Darbhanga has come down from 29 in the 1952 General Election to 22 only, whereas the number of seats won by the Praja Socialist Party has increased from 2 in the 1957 General Election to 5 in the 1962 General Election. Moreover, not a single candidate of the Communist Party was elected in the Legislative Assembly in 1952 and 1957 General Elections; but in 1962 General Election this party has won three seats for the Legislative Assembly. In 1952, 1957 and 1962 a Communist candidate had contested a seat in the Parliament but was not successful.

On analysing the three General Elections, it has been found that in Darbhanga district there are three main political parties, namely, the Congress, Praja Socialist and Communist which are working actively and have got some hold on the district.

The Congress Party has lost some seats in the last General Election in comparison with the General Elections of 1952 and 1957. Nevertheless, the Party could win 21 seats out of 31 in the last General Election which shows that the party has still the backing of the people in Darbhanga district. The Praja Socialist Party and Communist Party seem to have improved themselves as a result of which they could capture more seats in the General Election of 1962.

There has not yet been a detailed field study as to the voters' behaviour in the General Elections. No one has studied the reasons why a good percentage of voters never came to the polling booth.

A few words may be said regarding the behaviour of the voters who exercised their franchise. The first consideration is the working of the organisation of a particular political party from before the elections. From this point of view the Congress Party has clearly the best advantage. The Congress organisation has a link below the thana level. The Congress Party being the ruling party has also certain initial advantages. The Ministers and other Congress dignitories of both State and India levels usually visit the districts and Darbhanga district has often been visited by them. The members returned in the previous election either to the Assembly or to the Parliament have fed their constituencies in varying degrees and they see to some development projects or other in their constituencies. Against this, however, work other factors such as mobilising public opinion against the ruling parties. This also depends to a certain extent on the organisations of the opposing parties, newspapers and trying to point out the loopholes of the majority party. From this point of view none of the groups opposing the Congress have had a well-spread strong organisation. Recently the Communists have been strengthening their party but the Praja Socialist Party has had an organisation from before working among the masses, but not very actively.

Caste considerations have also been found to be a major factor where the voters could be led to believe that if they vote for a candidate of their own caste their economic interests will be served better. It is difficult to say how far the sense of casteism is exploited in favour of hopes for a better economic consideration. In some cases local considerations have played a more important role than the broad policies of the parties participating in the General Elections. It is doubtful if most of the voters voting for a particular party candidate knew and believed in the basic policies of that party. The average uneducated men who voted for the Congress believed he was endorsing what Gandhiji or Nehruji wanted. But there has been a distinct change in the trends and the analysis does not show that a mere congress ticket is adequate to sweep the polls irrespective of the personal equation of the candidate. At some places absolutely local services rendered to an area were given clear preference to all other possible considerations. A rapid field study gives the picture of various factors working behind the success or failure of the candidates and the general conditions controlling the elections as still fluid, the electors not properly trained to appreciate the broad policies of the party and there can hardly be any fixed criteria for winning the election. One thing is sure and that is the chance of independent candidates are becoming more and more precarious and a party affiliation appears necessary.

STATEMENT 'A'.

Name of the constituency.		Total number of electors.	Total number of votes polled.	Per cent of votes polled to total electorate.	Number of candidates nominated.	Number of candidates contesting election.	Party affiliation.		Number of votes obtained by each candidate.	Remarks.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	
Benipatti East	..	58,412	26,146	44.76	6	5	Independent	..	6,891	26.35	Elected.
							Congress	..	6,302	24.10	
							Communist	..	5,271	20.15	
							Independent	..	4,092	15.65	
							Socialist	..	3,590	13.73	
Biraul	..	63,060	20,812	33.00	5	5	Congress	..	8,413	40.23	Elected.
							Socialist	..	4,190	20.13	
							Independent	..	4,019	19.31	
							Ditto	..	2,737	13.15	
							Ditto	..	1,453	6.97	
Bahera South	..	59,696	19,391	32.48	6	6	Congress	..	6,615	34.11	Elected.
							Socialist	..	4,926	25.40	
							Independent	..	3,002	15.48	
							Ditto	..	2,402	12.38	
							Ditto	..	1,514	7.80	
							Ditto	..	932	4.80	
Bahera North	..	57,501	21,467	31.80	4	4	Congress	..	12,521	58.32	Elected.
							Socialist	..	5,709	26.59	
							Independent	..	2,416	11.25	
							Ditto	..	821	3.82	
Bahera North-East	..	81,075	25,392	31.57	8	6	Congress	..	8,839	34.80	Elected.
							Socialist	..	6,554	25.80	
							Independent	..	3,309	13.03	
							Ditto	..	3,029	11.92	
							Ditto	..	2,685	10.57	
							Ditto	..	976	3.83	

Singia	..	62,055	20,109	32.40	8	3	Congress	11,384	56.61	Elected.
							Socialist	7,011	34.86	
							K. M. P. P.	1,714	8.52	
Madhepur	..	58,666	25,045	42.69	4	3	Congress	14,123	56.39	Elected.
							Independent	7,611	30.38	
							Socialist	3,311	13.22	
Harlakhi	..	59,568	26,199	43.98	7	5	Congress	10,882	14.53	Elected.
							Independent	5,010	19.12	
							Ditto	3,834	14.63	
							Ditto	3,271	12.48	
							Communist	3,202	12.22	
Jainagar	..	64,053	27,388	42.45	4	4	Congress	13,230	48.30	Elected.
							Socialist	7,869	28.73	
							Independent	4,765	17.39	
							Ditto	1,524	5.56	
Khajauli	..	64,690	25,796	39.87	5	3	Congress	12,242	47.45	Elected.
							Independent	7,426	28.72	
							K. M. P. P.	6,130	23.83	
Ladania	..	44,305	24,139	54.48	5	5	Congress	9,698	40.17	Elected.
							Socialist	5,467	22.64	
							Independent	4,862	20.01	
							Ditto	2,337	9.68	
							Ditto	1,775	4.35	
Madhubani (Two-member constituency).		1,43,700	1.22,482	42.62	18	12	Congress	28,991	23.66	Elected.
							Independent	17,852	14·57	Elected.
							Socialist	16,055	13.10	
							Ditto	14,297	11.67	
							Independent	10,055	8.20	
							Ditto	7,847	6.40	
							Ditto	7,127	8.81	
							Ditto	8,081	6.59	
							Ditto	4,993	4.07	
							Ditto	2,934	2.39	
							Ditto	2,616	2.13	
							Ditto	1,634	1.33	

STATEMENT 'A'—*contd.*

Name of the constituency.	Total number of electors.	Total number of votes polled.	Percentage of votes polled to total electorate.	Number of candidates nominated.	Number of candidates contesting election.	Party affiliation.	Number of votes obtained by each candidate.	Remarks.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Jhanjharpur ..	52,731	21,724	41.19	9	8	Congress ..	7,931	36.50	Elected.
						Socialist ..	3,325	15.30	
						Independent ..	3,127	14.39	
						Ram Raj Parishad	2,720	12.52	
						Independent ..	1,941	8.93	
						Ditto ..	1,557	7.16	
						Ditto ..	570	2.62	
						Ditto ..	553	2.54	
Laukaha	55,245	19,814	35.98	4	3	Congress ..	10,199	51.47	Elected.
						Socialist ..	5,503	27.77	
						Independent ..	4,112	20.75	
Phulparas	79,667	34,969	43.89	2	2	Congress ..	20,906	59.79	Elected.
						Socialist ..	14,063	40.21	
Jale	49,770	20,180	40.51	10	7	Congress ..	6,897	34.17	Elected.
						Independent ..	5,194	25.73	
						K. M. P. P. ..	4,499	22.29	
						Independent ..	1,330	6.59	
						Socialist ..	910	4.50	
						Independent ..	880	4.36	
						Jansangh ..	470	2.32	
Mohiuddinnagar	65,864	28,301	42.97	5	4	Congress ..	19,036	67.26	Elected.
						Socialist ..	6,169	21.79	
						Independent ..	2,016	7.13	
						Ditto ..	1,078	3.80	

Warisnagar (Two-member Constituency).	1,17,412	86,511	36.88	10	6	Socialist ..	23,566	27.24	Elected.
						Ditto ..	18,637	21.54	Elected.
						Congress ..	18,250	21.09	
						Ditto ..	14.990	17.32	
						Independent ..	6,849	7.91	
						K. M. P. P. ..	4,216	4.63	
Tajpur	73,903	32,613	45.49	6	3	Socialist ..	15,159	46.48	Elected.
						Congress ..	12,728	39.02	
						K. M. P. P. ..	4,726	14.49	
Samastipur (Two-member Constituency).	1,24,210	73,636	52.05	15	12	Congress ..	15,161	19.00	Elected.
						Ditto ..	15,022	18.33	Elected.
						Socialist ..	11,855	14.86	
						Ditto ..	11,619	14.56	
						Independent ..	7,279	9.12	
						Ditto ..	4,812	6.03	
						Ditto ..	3,161	3.96	
						Ditto ..	2,886	3.61	
						Ditto ..	2,494	3.12	
						Ditto ..	2,229	2.76	
						Ditto ..	1,795	2.25	
						Ditto ..	1,323	1.65	
Dalsingsarai East ..	5[illegible]27	19,495	37.30	8	6	Congress ..	9,440	48.42	Elected.
						Independent ..	4,391	22.57	
						Ditto ..	2,281	11.7	
						Socialist ..	2,467	12.65	
						Independent ..	520	2.66	
						K. M. P. P. ..	396	2.03	
Dalsingsarai West ..	53,957	20,791	39.18	7	6	Congress ..	6,821	32.80	Elected.
						Independent ..	2,722	13.09	
						Ditto ..	2,148	10.33	
						Socialist ..	5,957	28.65	
						Independent ..	1,935	9.26	
						Ditto ..	1,206	5.81	

STATEMENT 'A'—*concld.*

Name of the constituency.	Total number of electors.	Total number of votes polled.	Per cent of votes polled to total electorate.	Number of candidates nominated.	Number of candidates contesting election.	Party affiliation.	Number of votes obtained by each candidate.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Rusera (Two-member constituency).	1,10,317	75,475	34.20	7	5	Congress ..	22,186	29.39 Elected.
						Ditto ..	20,076	26.59 Elected.
						Socialist ..	15,292	20.26
						Ditto ..	11,901	15.76
						Independent ..	6,020	7.97
Darbhanga	65,229	24,483	37.53	10	8	Congress ..	8,885	36.29 Elected.
						Independent ..	3,967	16.20
						Ditto ..	3,957	16.16
						Ditto ..	3,442	14.05
						Socialist ..	2,691	10.99
						Independent ..	658	2.68
						Ditto ..	550	2.24
						Ditto ..	333	1.36
Darbhanga North ..	68,243	23,110	33.86	6	6	Congress ..	13,427	58.1 Elected.
						Independent ..	4,055	17.54
						Socialist ..	2,126	9.19
						Independent ..	1,681	7.27
						Ditto ..	1,147	4.96
						Ditto ..	674	2.91
Darbhanga South (Two-member constituency)	1,44,943	66,128	22.81	7	7	Congress ..	18,038	27.27 Elected.
						Ditto ..	17,721	26.79 Elected.
						Soci list ..	10,682	16.15
						Ditto ..	10,287	15.55

						Independent ..	3,892	5.88	
						Ditto ..	3,767	5.69	
						Ditto .	1,741	2.63	
Banipatti West ..	57,917	27,840	46.34	5	4	Congress ..	12,133	44.37	Elected.
						Socialist .	5,566	19.99	
						Independent ..	6,381	22.92	
						Ditto ..	3,760	13.50	
Samastipur East ..	3,39,720	1,22,946	36.2	7	4	Congress ..	63,019	51.25	Elected.
						Socialist ..	38,790	31.55	
						Independent ..	14,477	11.17	
						Ditto ..	6,660	5.40	
Darbhanga Central ..	3,94,744	1,36,243	34.5	4	4	Congress ..	79,435	58.30	Elected.
						Socialist ..	30,806	22.61	
						Indopendent ..	14,244	14.54	
						Communist ..	11,758	8.63	
Darbhanga East ..	3,72,053	1,32,722	35.7	4	3	Congress .	69,944	52.69	Elected.
						Socialist ..	47,766	35.98	
						Independent ..	15,012	11.31	
Darbhanga North ..	3,76,316	1,67,758	44.5	5	3	Congress ..	64,314	38.33	Elected.
						Independent ..	56,053	33.41	
						Socialist ..	47,391	28.24	
Muzaffarpur-*cum*-Darbhanga	7,16,634	3,18,538	44.4	6	3	Congress ..	Uncontested elected.		
						Ditto ..	1,52,490	47.87	Elected.
						Socialist ..	1,22,895	38.56	
						Independent ..	43,153	13.54	
Darbhanga-*cum*-Bhagalpur	3,31,476	1,46,296	44.1	3	2	Congress ..	99,414	64.53	Elected.
						Socialist ..	51,877	35.46	

STATEMENT 'B'.

Name of the constituency.	Total number of electors.	Total number of electors who voted.	Total number of candidates contesting.	Party affiliation.	Number of votes obtained by each candidate.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jale	65,978	28,902	5	Independent	2,152	
				Ditto	6,904	
				Ditto	2,104	
				Ditto	1,358	
				Congress	10,985	Elected.
Khajauli	71,179	31,823	5	Congress	12,337	Elected.
				Independent	4,607	
				Communist	5,313	
				Independent	1,096	
				P.S.P.	8,470	
Benipatti West	68,241	35,020	2	Communist	15,648	
				Congress	10,372	Elected.
Benipatti East	67,672	31,146	4	Independent	9,184	
				Congress	14,684	Elected.
				Independent	5,594	
				Ditto	1,684	
Jainagar (Two-member constituency)	1,46,534	56,485	8	Independent	3,707	One seat was reserved for Scheduled Castes.
				P.S.P.	7,143	
				Ditto	10,742	
				Congress	25,923	Elected.
				Ditto	29,823	Elected.
				Communist	20,417	
				Independent	6,978	
				Ditto	8,237	

Madhubani West	66,938	27,310	3	P.S.P.	12,440	Elected.
				Independent	6,895	
				Congress	7,975	
Madhubani East	76,387	29,820	4	Janta	1,020	
				P. S. P.	12,735	
				Independent	,666	
				Congress	13,399	Elected.
Lawkaha	53,529	18,691	5	P.S.P.	5,192	
				Independent	790	
				Communist	3,726	
				Congress	6,908	Elected.
				Janta	2,075	
Phulparas	65,545	30,934	5	Independent	588	
				P.S.P.	7,336	
				Independent	5,829	
				Congress	14,525	Elected.
				Janta	2,656	
Madhepur	75,797	39,846	5	Independent	1,268	
				Congress	18,320	Elected.
				Independent	7,583	
				Ditto	3,053	
				Ditto	9,622	
Jhanjharpur	65,234	27,451	3	Congress	12,719	Elected.
				Jansangh	3,980	
				P.S.P.	10,752	
Warisnagar East	69,452	37,773	3	Independent	4,285	
				Congress	17,940	Elected.
				P.S.P.	15,548	
Warisnagar West	61,193	32,632	4	Congress	19,299	Elected.
				Communist	4,637	
				Independent	3,159	
				P.S.P.	5,537	

STATEMENT 'B'—*concld.*

Name of the constituency.	Total number of electors.	Total number of electors who voted.	Total number of candidates contesting.	Party affiliation.	Number of votes obtained by each candidate.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Samastipur West	55,475	20,261	4	Independent	2,749	
				Jansangh	2,568	
				P.S.P.	6,974	
				Congress	7,970	Elected.
Samastipur East	56,685	21,769	4	Congress	13,303	Elected.
				Jansangh	1,909	
				P. S. P.	2,997	
				Independent	3,560	
Dalsingsarai (Two-member constituency).	1,03,421	54,140	7	Independent	4,709	
				Janta	18,640	
				Independent	6,825	
				Congress	32,279	Elected.
				P. S. P.	10,747	
				Ditto	10,590	
				Congress	24,490	Elected.
Rusera	66,037	28,195	4	P. S. P.	8,176	
				Congress	9,477	Elected.
				Independent	2,651	
				Ditto	7,891	
Tajpur .. — ..	62,306	32,400	3	Independent	898	
				P. S. P.	21,166	Elected.
				Congress	10,336	
Singia (Two-member constituency)	1,15,236	49,641	9	Congress	17,097	Elected.
				P. S. P.	8,657	
				Independent	8,646	
				Ditto	8,082	
				Ditto	15,125	
				Ditto	4,697	
				P. S. P.	10,345	
				Congress	22,667	Elected.
				Janta	3,965	

Mohiuddinagar	65,031	32,846	5	Independent ..	..	2,047	
				Congress ..	..	16,101	Elected.
				P. S. P. ..	..	5,810	
				Independent ..	..	8,507	
				Ditto ..	..	1,381	
Darbhanga South (Two-member constituency).	1,43,855	57,603	6	P. S. P. ..	..	8,054	
				Communist ..	..	12,346	
				Congress ..	..	30,953	Elected.
				Ditto ..	..	33,308	Elected.
				Independent ..	..	12,392	
				Ditto ..	..	18,460	
Darbhanga Central	77,289	23,117	7	Independent ..	..	2,642	
				Ditto ..	..	1,055	
				Ditto ..	..	1,880	
				Ditto ..	..	641	
				P. S. P. ..	..	2,938	
				Jansangh ..	..	3,798	
				Congress ..	..	10,263	Elected.
Darbhanga North	69,355	22,351	3	Congress ..	..	11,636	Elected
				Independent ..	..	6,398	
				P. S. P. ..	..	4,317	
Bahera East	66,223	29,031	4	P. S. P. ..	..	9,198	
				Independent ..	..	1,793	
				Congress ..	..	11,894	Elected.
				Independent ..	..	6,146	
Bahera West	67,171	29,946	2	P. S. P. ..	..	10,049	
				Congress ..	..	19,897	Elected.
Bahera South	59,128	24,384	6	Independent ..	..	602	
				Ditto ..	..	4,424	
				Congress ..	..	7,897	Elected.
				P. S. P. ..	..	3,779	
				Independent ..	..	1,690	
				Ditto ..	..	5,992	
Biraul	63,253	26,462	3	Independent ..	..	11,331	
				Congress ..	..	12,906	Elected.
				P. S. P. ..	..	2,225	

STATEMENT 'C'.

Name of the constituency.	Total number of electors.	Number of electors who voted. Male.	Female.	Total.	Per centage of votes polled to total electorate.	Number of votes rejected.	Number of candidates nominated.	Number of candidates contesting.	Party affiliation.	Number of votes obtained by each candidate.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Dalsingsarai West ..	52,839	16,250	10,414	26,664	50	1,174	5	3	Swatantra ..	5,904	
									Congress ..	17,379	Elected.
									P. S. P. ..	2,196	
Dalsingsarai East ..	59,527	18,372	12,047	30,419	51	1,708	6	4	Swatantra ..	10,975	
									P. S. P. ..	1,814	
									Independent	1,650	
									Congress ..	14,257	Elected.
Bahera East ..	77,694	20,231	12,199	32,430	36.5	1,785	3	3	P. S. P. ..	12,072	
									Congress ..	13,818	Elected.
									Swatantra ..	4,756	
Bahera West ..	73,836	21,778	16,539	38,317	51.8	1,496	3	3	Congress ..	23,873	Elected.
									P. S. P. ..	10,921	
									Swatantra ..	2,027	
Bahera South ..	68,024	12,776	7,376	20,152	31.6	1,092	6	4	Congress ..	6,676	Elected.
									P. S. P. ..	6,303	
									Socialist ..	3,952	
									Swatantra ..	2,129	
Biraul	71,564	14,204	10,189	24,393	34.08	1,768	5	5	Swatantra ..	10,854	Elected.
									Congress ..	8,308	
									Socialist ..	972	
									Independent	1,305	
									P. S. P. ..	1,186	

Darbhanga Central	80,410	25,776	19,921	45,697	51.1	1,893	..	4	Socialist ..	1,093	
									Swatantra ..	9,598	
									Jansangh ..	10,548	
									Congress ..	22,565	Elected.
Darbhanga North ..	71,505	13,822	9,184	23,026	32.2	1,130	4	4	Independent	509	
									P. S. P. ..	2,856	
									Swatantra .	8,162	
									Congress ..	10,349	Elected.
Darbhanga West ..	83,868	14,955	10,905	25,860	32.2	1,452	3	3	Congress ..	13,303	Elected. Reserved seat for Scheduled Castes.
									Socialist ..	7,616	
									Swatantra ..	3,489	
Darbhanga East ..	91,452	20,730	15,691	36,421	39.8	1,879	4	4	Socialist ..	2,072	
									Swatantra ..	6,345	
									Congress ..	18,312	Elected.
									P. S. P. ..	7,813	
Tajpur	73,650	22,116	18,115	40,231	54.6	1,364	5	4	P. S. P. ..	25,924	Elected.
									Socialist ..	1,726	
									Swatantra ..	3,450	
									Congress ..	7,767	
Mohiuddinagar ..	71,666	21,622	14,617	36,239	50.5	1,595	7	6	Independent	3,326	
									Socialist .	1,000	
									Congress ..	14,323	Elected.
									P. S. P. ..	2,065	
									Independent	414	
									Swatantra ..	7,516	
Sing'a	64,481	16,878	2,767	19,645	30.4	957	4	4	P. S. P. ..	3,379	
									Socialist ..	1,220	
									Congress ..	11,825	Elected.
									Swatantra ..	2,257	
Rusera ..	65,332	24,446	9,031	33,477	51.2	1,511	3	3	P. S. P. .	19,928	Elected.
									Socialist ..	4,412	
									Congress ..	7,610	

STATEMENT 'C'.—*contd.*

Name of the constituency.		Total number of electors.	Number of electors who voted. Male.	Female.	Total.	Per centage of votes polled to total electorate.	Number of votes rejected.	Number of candidates nominated.	Number of candidates contesting.	Party affiliation.	Number of votes obtained by each candidate.	Remarks.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Rusera East	..	61,343	20,875	8,231	29,106	47.4	1,872	7	7	Independent	300	
										Ditto	4,381	
										Socialist ..	1,084	
										Congress ..	15,417	Elected.
										Swatantra ..	4,081	
										P.S.P. ..	1,580	
										Independent	391	
Madhepur	..	77,069	25,821	14,821	40,682	52.7	1,920	5	5	P.S.P. ..	12,608	
										Independent	4,243	
										Congress ..	15,444	Elected,
										Jansangh ..	1,630	
										Swatantra ..	5,437	
Madhubani East	..	84,010	25,497	13,825	39,322	46.8	1,779	8	6	Jansangh ..	2,042	
										Communist ..	5,457	
										Independent	1,836	
										Congress ..	12,384	
										P.S.P. ..	14,906	Elected.
										Independent	919	
Warisnagar West	..	66,779	24,105	15,427	39,532	59.1	2,290	7	5	Swatantra ..	3,852	
										Congress ..	16,910	Elected.
										Independent	882	
										Ditto	1,655	
										P.S.P. ..	13,987	

Warisnagar East ..	81,874	32,094	10,485	51,579	62.9	2,484	7	5	Swatantra	5,211	
									Jansangh ..	1,130	
									C.P.I. ..	8,148	
									P.S.P. ..	23,356	Elected.
									Congress ..	12,245	
Phulparas ..	67.663	21,470	11,091	32,570	48.2	1,706	3	3	Socialist ..	11,001	
									P.S.P. ..	8,134	
									Congress ..	11,729	Elected.
Samastipur East ..	62,826	19,861	10,372	30,223	48	1,581	7	5	Swatantra ..	4,520	
									Socialist ..	1,728	
									Congress ..	15,917	Elected.
									P.S.P. ..	3,759	
									Independent	2,718	
Samastipur West ..	59,869	19,549	9,305	28,654	53.3	1,679	5	4	Congress ..	12,988	Elected.
									Swatantra ..	3,710	
									P.S.P. ..	9,306	
									Jansangh ..	2,130	
									Socialist ..	722	
Jale	71,464	20,960	10,332	31,292	43.8	1,785	4	4	P.S.P. ..	3,773	
									Communist ..	2,530	
									Congress ..	14,157	Elected.
									Swatantra ..	9,047	
Harlakhi ..	80,181	24,827	10,660	35.487	42.2	2,062	7	5	P.S.P. ..	3,594	
									Communist	11,400	Elected.
									Congress ..	9,527	
									Independent	4,251	
									Swatantra ..	4,653	
Khajauli ..	75,006	25,651	10,375	36,026	49	1,577	7	5	Congress ..	13,154	Elected.
									P.S.P. ..	7,463	
									Socialist ..	1,790	
									Independent	10,100	
									Ditto ..	1,942	
Benipatti West ..	82,868	25,962	15,297	42,259	51	2,098	7	5	P.S.P. ..	1,803	
									Communist	16,903	Elected.
									Swatantra ..	4,603	
									Congress ..	14,707	
									Independent	2,143	

STATEMENT 'C'—*concld.*

Name of the constituency.		Total number of electors.	Number of electors who voted. Male.	Female.	Total.	Per centage of votes polled to total electorate.	Number of votes rejected.	Number of candidates nominated.	Number of candidates contesting.	Party affiliation.	Number of votes obtained by each candidate.	Remarks.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Benipatti East	..	76,277	24,393	13,130	37,523	46	2,010	7	6	Swatantra ..	7,022	
										Independent	531	
										Communist..	12,973	Elected.
										Congress ..	7,992	
										P.S.P. ..	3,972	
										Independent	3,023	
Jainagar	..	85,664	25,924	5,019	30,943	36	1,306	4	4	Independent	2,800	Reserved seat for Scheduled Castes.
										P.S.P. ..	2,305	
										Communist..	8,633	
										Congress ..	15,899	Elected.
Madhubani West	..	84,010	22,010	12,685	34,695	41.2	1,699	8	6	Congress ..	14,953	Elected.
										Swatantra ..	5,320	
										P.S.P. ..	6,790	
										Independent	462	
										Jansangh ..	4,487	
										Independent	984	
Laukaha	..	57,318	19,549	9,305	28,854	50.3	1,679	5	4	Swatantra	4,703	
										P.S.P. ..	7,601	Elected.
										Independent	7,571	
										Congress ..	7,300	
Jhanjharpur	..	70,794	22,603	9,642	32,245	45.5	1,409	6	6	P.S.P. ..	8,636	
										Jansangh .	4,090	
										Congress ..	13,709	Elected.
										Independent	2,300	
										Socialist ..	1,059	
										Swatantra ..	1,036	

CHAPTER XVI

PLACES OF INTEREST.*

AHIARI.

A village in Sadar subdivision, situated about two miles south of Kamtaul station of the North Eastern Railway.

The name of the village is derived from the legendary Ahalya, the wife of Gautama Rishi during the time of Nimi, the founder of Videha Kingdom in Mithila and son of Ikshaku. The earliest reference to the story of Ahalya occurs in *Satopatha Brahman* where Indra has been described as a paramour of Ahalya. The Ramayan mentions the hermitage of Gautama. The story is that Ahalya's beauty attracted Indra who assumed the shape of Gautama and visited Ahalya. Gautama who cast a curse on his wife who was changed into stone and she remained as such for thousands of years. On his way to Janakpur, Ram had visited the *Ashram* of Gautama and took off the spell and Ahalya was revived. The village has a temple built in 1817 by Maharaj Chhatra Singh Bahadur of Darbhanga. The village is known for the *Ahalyasthan* to the memory of Ahalya. Foot-prints of Sita are also the other religious attraction.

A gathering is held every year in the month of *Chaitra* on Ramnavmi day. It lasts for several days and is very largely attended.

The area of the village is 3,611 acres. The village is mostly populated by Bhumihar Brahmans and Maithil Brahmans.

The village has a post office, a Sanskrit high school and three lower primary schools and a girls school. There are also three libraries not much used.

There are nine temples and a mosque in the village.

ASURGARH.

It is a ruined fort and one of the most interesting antiquities in Darbhanga district. It is about 40 miles from Darbhanga town lying between 26°10′ North and 86°30′ East. The fort area occupies about 50 acres of land. The river Tiljuga had flown along its eastern edge cutting into its eastern wall. Recently another stream of the same river has taken off along its western side, so that at present, the fort lies on a small triangular water-parting. The

* Some places have been spelt differently. Different spellings are accepted.

western side, however, owing to the great distance, shallowness and weak current of the stream has not been eroded and exposed. The traces of the walls are visible every where, but there are several gaps, which might have been the bastions and gates. It appears that the main entrance lay either to the south, i.e., towards the village Garhgaon or to the east, i.e., towards the present course of the river.

Though the walls are not very thick but the foundation goes down to a great depth and the eastern side shows masonry and signs of underground rooms which might be old wells or underground cellars. Since this part of the stream is very deep even in dry season exploration of these cells is difficult and dangerous. The profile also shows burnt bricks similar to those found in *Baliraj garh* in Darbhanga district. Old earthen pots had been found and spirited away.

This short and incomplete account of the *garh* naturally excites one's curiosity. The scrappy traditions are more interesting and puzzling. The neighbourhood holds the area in great superstitious awe, they hold this to be ancient, holy ground and immune from erosion. They believe that about sixty or seventy years ago the *garh* was attacked by Kosi flood as a result of which the water of the river became red with flood for several days till finally the spirit of the *garh* married the spirit of the river and they settled down in agreement. Secondly, when the river began to impinge the foundation of the eastern wall of the *garh*, quantities of crumbled bricks were washed away. Many of the other superstitions are usual everywhere such as that anybody who shoots birds there comes to grief, and that anybody who removes things from the *garh* never flourishes. At the same time it is interesting to note that under the pressure of increasing population the landlord had selected lands in the *garh* with several tenants.

Regarding the origin of this *garh* it may be noted that it was built by one Asur Shah who was regarded as Muslim Chieftain of influence and power. It is also believed that he either built or had connection with another fort called *Chanur garh* in Saharsa district which he connected with Asurgarh by a road that is still existent in parts.

Secondly, certain pieces of metal and copper have been discovered on the ruins. The people who collected them believe that they had been used as coins.

The ruins may be of Buddhistic times and therefore very ancient or they may be of a later age made by an adventurer called Asur Shah. They may, in fact, be both, being relics of comparatively new building founded on an old site. An exploration of the site will probably lead to interesting finds.

ANDHRATHARI

This village in Madhubani subdivision is the headquarters of a Community Development Block. It is under the jurisdiction of Jhanjharpur police station and the nearest railway station is Jhanjharpur at a distance of 12 miles.

There are lower, upper primary, middle schools in the village. There is also a statutory *Gram Panchayat* and a post office in the village.

BABU BARHI

This village in Madhubani subdivision is the headquarters of a Community Development Block. It is under the jurisdiction of Khajauli police station. The nearest railway station Rajnagar is at a distance of 12 miles from the village.

There are lower and upper primary schools, a middle and a high school in the village. There is a statutory *Gram Panchayat* and a post office in the village.

BAHERA

The village is situated about 20 miles south-east of Darbhanga in the Sadar subdivision. Bahera has a police-station of the same name, a Sub-Registry office and is a trade centre of local importance. There is an *Anchal* office at the neighbouring Benipur village.

Bahera has a historical background. In 1845, Bahera was the only subdivision in Tirhut district which comprised the present Darbhanga district. At that time it consisted of 4 thanas and 3 out-posts. The Darbhanga subdivisional headquarters at Bahera was abolished in 1865 and shifted to Darbhanga. The Darbhanga subdivision was created in 1845.

The population of this village according to 1951 census is 515, i.e., 266 males and 249 females. The total area of the village is 143 acres with 63 number of occupied houses. Its thana number is 148. In the census report of 1951 it is mentioned as Mohan Bahera.*

BALRAJPUR

Regarding Balrajpur L. S. S. O' Malley in the last District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907) mentions :—

"A village in the Madhubani subdivision, situated about 10 miles east of Khajauli and 16 miles north-east of

*District Census Handbook of Darbhanga (1951), published in 1956, p. 198.

> Madhubani. The village contains the remains of a fort known as the *garh* or fort of Raja Bal. Only the ramparts are standing, but these are in good repair. The walls, which enclosed a rectangle about 500 by 300 yards in length, are composed of large well-burnt bricks, nearly a foot long, and are still 10 feet in height, and the remains of round towers, about 40 feet in height are standing at each of the four corners. The interior of the fort is overgrown with jungle and is uninhabited, except by a solitary *bairagi*, who is in charge of the shrine of Raja Bal. The latter is worshipped as a local divinity, but the people round have no knowlege as to who Raja Bal was or when the fort was built. They believe, however, that Raja Bal and his army still inhabit it, and in consequence of this they are afraid to bring the site into cultivation. They allow their cattle to graze there in the day time, but nothing would induce them to visit it at night. This popular superstition is doubtless the reason for the excellent state of preservation of the ramparts, for otherwise the people could certainly have removed the bricks of which it is composed. A former Subdivisional Officer, while carrying out some excavations in the fort, was attacked by fever and had to give up the work. This circumstance has greatly strengthened the superstition with regard to the sanctity of the site, as the people belive that Raja Bal himself sent the fever. The country round, is dotted with mounds, in which bricks similar to those in the fort are found. These may have been constructed at the same time as the fort to serve as out-posts."

According to the census of 1951 the total population of the village was 466, i.e., 236 males and 230 females. According to the provisional census of 1961 the total population is 829, i.e., 395 males and 434 females.

The village is under the jurisdiction of Khajauli police-station and Babubarhi Block. Its thana number is 167 and covers an area of 101 acres. There is a lower primary school and a library in the village.

BASOPATTI

This village in Madhubani subdivision is the headquarters of a Community Development Block of the same name. It is under the jurisdiction of Jaynagar police station and has an area of 3,194 acres. The nearest railway station is Jaynagar.

According to the census of 1951 its total population was 7,078, i.e., 3,435 males and 3,643 females with 973 occupied houses.

There is a statutory Gram Panchayat, a Library, a Post-Office and a number of schools of different status, including a high school.

BENIPATTI

This is a village situated at a distance of 29 miles north-west of Darbhanga town. It is under the jurisdiction of the police station of the same name and its thana number is 185. The total area of the village is 1,903 acres with 700 number of occupied houses, a total population of 4,545, i. e., 2,282 males and 2,263 females and 715 males and 105 females literate. There are lower primary, middle, and high schools. There is also a library in the village.* It is a place of considerable importance and it can be even negotiated during rains. It is a connecting link to the village Uchaitha, which is of local importance.

BENIPUR

This village in Sadar subdivision is the headquarters of the Community Development Block of Bahera. It is under the jurisdiction of Bahera police station and has an area of 243 acres. The nearest railway station is Sakri at a distance of 10 miles.

According to the census of 1951 its total population was 722, i. e., 350 males and 372 females with 109 occupied houses.

There are lower, upper primary and middle schools in the village.

BHAWARA

Regarding Bhawara, the last District Gazetteer published in 1907 mentions:—

> "A large village about half a mile to the south of Madhubani. To the south are pointed out the remains of a fort or *garh* which at one time had brick walls. The whole is now in ruins, and there is nothing in its external appearance to distinguish it from an ordinary tank. It is said to have been built by Raghu Singh, one of the early members of the Darbhanga Raj family, who resided here till about 1762, when Pratab Singh removed his household to Darbhanga. There are no temples of any importance or interest in the village, but a mosque now in ruins, with only a front wall and six arched doors remaining, is pointed out as having been built by Ala-Ud-din Hussain, one of the last independent kings of Benga (1493—1518)".

* District Census Handbook of Darbhanga (1951), published in 1955, p. 212.

There have been fundamental changes in Bhawara since L. S. S. O'Malley's days. Bhawara has become a part of Madhubani town. It is divided into three wards of the municipality. There are two primary schools, 4 *maktabs* and a middle school in these three wards which was a village in 1907 A.D. These three wards are electrified.

BIRAUL

A village in Sadar subdivision is at a distance of 24 miles from Sakri railway station of North Eastern Railway.

The village has a post-office, a lower, an upper and a middle school. The headquarters of Biraul C. D. Block is located at Supaul village in the neighbourhood.

There is a statutory *Gram Panchayat* and many shops of daily use.

BIRAULI

This is a large progressive village in Samastipur subdivision. The village had a large indigo factory before.

There are a Rural College, a post-office and lower, upper and middle schools in the village. The main product of the village are chillies, paddy, sugarcane and maize. The village is affected by the flood of Burhi Gandak of the district.

BISFI

A village in Madhubani subdivision, situated at a distance of six miles east of the Kamtaul railway station. An unmetalled road runs from Kamtaul to Bisfi.

The village is the headquarters of the Bisfi Block. The village is under the jurisdiction of Benipatti police station and its thana no. is 171. According to the provisional population figures of 1961 census its total population is 4,226, i.e., 1,934 males and 2,292 females. The area of the village is 2,278 acres. The village is divided into eleven *tolas* namely, Bisfi *tola*, Kiswa *tola*, Pokhar *tola*, Ramania *tola*, Garahapatta *tola*, Hat *tola*, Gorahi *tola*, Ramnagar *tola*, Dudhia *tola*, Gotnag *tola*, Dharan *tola* and Suli *tola*.

The village is important because it is said to be the birth place of the immortal Maithil poet Vidyapati. Some ruins of tank and houses have been found which are associated with the poet. A memorial of the poet in the village is under construction.

The village has a post office, a veterinary dispensary, a primary school with about 50 students both boys and girls and a middle school with about 30 students. There is a proposal of the villagers to open a library in the memory of Vidyapati.

The villagers send their agricultural produce to Kamtaul, Rohika, Madhubani, etc. The village *hat* is held on Sundays and Thursdays in the week. There are about fifteen tanks, five temples and a mosque in the village.

There is a statutory *Gram Panchayat* in the village. The houses are mostly mud-built with straw roofing. There are also brick built houses but their number is only about five.

DALSINGSARAI

Dalsingsarai, a town in Samastipur subdivision, has a population of 7,853 persons according to 1951 census and 12,540 according to the provisional figures of 1961 census.

The town is under the jurisdiction of Dalsingsarai police station. There is also a block office in the town. The town is a place of commercial and trade importance. Commodities like chillies, turmeric, tobacco and sugarcane are exported from here to Patna, places in Assam, Lucknow, Kanpur, Calcutta and Bombay, etc. The town has about 20 grain stockists, 20 chillies and turmeric stockists and 20 wholesale dealers, and 50 retail sale dealers. The details regarding banking and industries will be found elsewhere.

The town is inhabited by Hindu and Mohammadan communities. The main castes are Brahman, Bhumihar Brahman, Surhi, Kalwar, Rajput, Gwala, etc.

The incidence of education and literacy is fairly high. The town has several lower and upper primary schools, a middle school, two high schools and a college. There are about 800 students in the college. There is a government dispensary. Besides there are many allopathic, homeopathic and *Ayurvedic* private practitioners in the town.

The town is electrified and there is a cinema house.

The town has a post-office, a railway station, a police station, and a branch of the State Bank of India and other several Central and State Government offices in the town.

DARBHANGA RAJ

The following description occurs in the last *District Gazetteer* of Darbhanga written by L. S. S. O'Malley in 1907:—

"The largest estate in the district, owned by the Maharaja of Darbhanga. The Darbhanga family traces its origin to one Mahesh Thakur, who is said to have come from Jubbulpore about the

beginning of the 16th century. He took service as a priest with the descendants of Raja Siva Singh, who still exercised a nominal supremacy in Tirhut, but when they collapsed before the advancing Muhammadan power, Mahesh Thakur managed to induce Akbar to grant him what are now the Darbhanga Raj estates. He and his descendants gradually consolidated the power of the family; and about 1700 the title of Raja was for the first time conferred on its head, Raghu Singh, by Ali Vardi Khan. He was given a *mukarari* lease of *Sarkar* Tirhut at an annual rent of a lakh of rupees; but soon afterwards Ali Vardi Khan, hearing of the enormous profits he made, seized his property and carried off his family as prisoners to Patna. The Raja surrendered himself, and was ordered back to Tirhut as a mere revenue collector, a few villages and a grant of *sadui* (2 per cent on the collections) being given to him on condition "that he should do justice and relieve distress, that he should put the country in a flourishing state and keep it so; that he should supply the ryots with the necessaries for cultivation, and be equally answerable to Government for the revenue collected through his dependants as for those immediately under his own superintendence".

"Raja Narendra Singh was the proprietor of the estate, when the British took possession of Bihar. On his death in 1760 he was succeeded by his adopted son, Pratap Singh, who in 1762 removed the family residence to Darbhanga from Bhawara near Madhubani. The latter was succeeded in 1776 by his brother Madhu Singh, who was constantly at variance with the Collector owing to his refusal to engage for the revenue, until certain claims of his were acknowledged. He obstinately refused all terms offered to him, and did his best, by intimidation, to prevent farmers from taking the settlement of them. This was a serious obstacle in the way of effecting a settlement of the district; and the Collector, incensed by his contumacy, was continually complaining of his insolence and obstrutiveness. Referring to the terms of the grant made to Raghu Singh, he angrily declared that "instead of relieving distress, he has multiplied it; instead of doing justice he has been the instrument of injustice; instead of putting the country in a flourishing state, he has desolated it; instead of furnishing the ryots with the necessaries for cultivation, he has drove them by repeated extortions from the fields, which once were loaded with the fruits of their industry."

"Madhu Singh did not finally come to terms till after 1800, when he agreed to a comparatively fair *jama* of 1¼ lakh; and his estates, which had been let out in farm, were then restored to him. On his death in 1808, he was succeeded by his son Chhattar Singh, who rendered good service to Government at the time of the Nepal War in 1814-15. He was the first to receive the title of Maharaja, and since that time the title, though never formally recognised as

hereditary, has been granted by Government as a personal distinction to each successive proprietor of the estate. In 1839, a few days before his death, he made over his estate to his eldest son, Rudar Singh, with the exception of a few villages which he gave to his younger son, Basdeo Singh. The latter then claimed half of the Raj, alleging that the desposition of the property ought not to be regulated by the *kulachar* or family custom, but by Hindu law. The Sessions Judge, whose decision was upheld by the High Court, held that Rudar Singh was entitled to the Raj, and that Basdeo Singh was only entitled to *pargana* Jarail as maintenance, on the ground that the succession to the family property is regulated by the family custom ; that the eldest son succeeds to the Raj, the younger sons obtaining sufficient landed property for their maintenance and that the Raj pays the Government revenue direct for them, and they reimburse it, the lands being assigned on condition that, failing male issue, they revert to the Raj. This decision, which has settled once for all that the estate is impartible and that inheritance to it is regulated by primogeniture, has been instrumental in preserving the estate in its integrity, and in making its proprietor the greatest land owner in Bihar. But the immediate effect of the litigation, combined with mismanagement, was to involve the estate in serious difficulties, so that when Maharaja Maheshwar Singh died in 1866 and the Court of Wards took charge of it for his minor son, it was 70 lakhs in debt and the revenue was only 16 lakhs. Under the management of the Court of Wards, the finances of the estate recovered, and 20 years later, when it was made over to the late Maharaja Lakshmeswar Singh, it was in flourishing condition.

"The Raj estates at present comprise lands situated in the districts of Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Monghyr, Purnea and Bhagalpur, amounting to over 2,400 square miles. The Maharaja is also the owner of house property in the towns of Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Patna, Benaras, Calcutta, Allahabad, Darjeeling and Simla, and of the indigo concerns of Saraiya and Bachaur in the Muzaffarpur district, Pandaul in Darbhanga and Gondwara in Purnea. The principal residence of the Maharaja is the Anandbagh Palace ; a palace for the Rani is being built at Darbhanga, and another is in process of completion at Rajnagar. The rent roll exceeds 32 lakhs of rupees, and the Government revenue, including cesses, is 7¼ lakhs. The present system of management was introduced when the estate was under the Court of Wards and is very complete. The estate is divided into circles of from fifty to two hundred villages each , each circle is in charge of a sub-manager who is responsible to the Maharaja for its efficient working, and under each sub-manager there are usually *tahsildars* or rent collectors in charge of groups of villages.

"The present proprietor of the estate is Maharaja Bahadur Sir Rameswar Singh, K.C.I.E., He was born in 1860 and in 1878

was appointed to the Statutory Civil Service; he served in seve; Bihar districts as an Assistant Magistrate, but resigned the serv. in 1885. He succeeded to the Raj in December 1898 when his brother died heirless, and was a Maharaja Bahadur three weeks afterwards. In 1900 he was given the Kaisar-i-Hind gold medal; in 1902 he was made K.C.I.E., and in 1904 he was elected by the non-official members of the Bengal Legislative Council as their representative on the Governor-General's Legislative Council."*

A reference to the various munificent gif.s of the Darbhanga Raj for the advancement of education and culture has been mentioned elsewhere. The contribution of the Darbhanga Raj to the Congress Party has also been referred to.

The late Maharajadhiraj Sir Rameshwar Singh was the Life President of the *Bharat Dharma Maha Mandal*. He liberally helped in founding the Hindu University at Banaras. He had worked a a member of the Police Commission in 1905. In 1920 he was given the hereditary title of Maharajadhiraj. He made a donation of 7 lakhs of rupees to the Calcutta University for the construction of a building which is known as Darbhanga Raj building.

Maharajadhiraj Sir Rameshwar Singh passed away in 1929 and was succeeded by his son, Maharajadhiraj Sir Kameshwar Singh in 1929. He went to England as a member of the First Round Table Conference. He was also one of the members of the Second Round Table Conference. He had risen to the occasion when the great Bihar Earthquake of 1934 ravaged the district of Bihar. Although his personal loss was great, he gave handsome donations. He had sponsored the Darbhanga Improvement Trust. He has given large donations to the *Chandradhari Mithila* College, Darbhanga, Hindu University at Varanasi, Patna University for the publication of the Maithil books, Aligarh Muslim University and to various other institutions. Handsome donations have also been given by him to the Mithila Research Institute, Darbhanga. He had made over one of his ancostral palaces and a large collection of books to the Sanskrit University Library. Darbhanga which is named after him.†

Darbhanga Sadar Subdivision

It is the headquarters subdivision of the district, lying between 25° 38′ and 26° 26′ North and 85° 41′ and 86° 44′ East. and extending over 880 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the subdivision of Madhubani, on the south by the Samastipur subdivision, on the West by Muzaffarpur, and on the East by Banagaon thana of Saharsa district. Like the Madhubani subdivision it resembles in

* District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907), pages 143—146.

† Maharajdhiraj Sir Kameshwar Singh suddenly passed away on the 1st October 1962 at his Darbhanga Palace. With him passes away the last Maharajadhiraj of the famous Darbhanga house.

shape a fairly well defined parallelogram, its length from the north to south being greater than its breadth from west to east. The subdivision generally constitutes one low-lying plain containing a number of marshes and intersected by many streams and rivers, of which the most important are the Baghmati, Little Baghmati, Kamla and Tiljuga. The Baghmati, which enters this subdivision from Muzaffarpur, forms a natural boundary between it and the Samastipur subdivision, purusing a south-easterly course till it empties itself into the Burhi Gandak river near Rusera. The Little Baghmati enters the subdivision from the Madhubani subdivision near Pali and runs past the town of Darbhanga down to Haya Ghat, where it is joined by the Baghmati proper. The Karai, which traverses the whole of Rusera thana, emerges from the Kamla and the Baghmati, and joins the Tiljuga at Tilkeshwar. The Kamla enters the subdivision at Singar Pandaul, and flowing east of Darbhanga joins the Tiljuga at the south-east corner of Rusera Thana. The Tilguja skirts the eastern boundary of the subdivision.

It has 864 villages and 1 town, i.e., Darbhanga. The total population of the subdivision according to the two last census are :—

			Total population	Males	Females
1951	..	..	1,078,089	522,048	556,041
1961*	..	..	1,250,101	599,324	650,777

The Subdivisional Officer is the head of the civil administration of the Sadar subdivision and he is directly under the administrative control of the District Magistrate. There are 5 police stations, namely. Darbhanga, Jale, Bahera, Darbhanga Town and Biraul. Out of these, two, i.e., Darbhanga and Darbhanga Town are within Darbhanga Municipality.

There is complete separation of executive and judiciary in this district. As such the Sadar Subdivisional Officer's functions are (i) His judicial function has already been described in the chapter, "Law, Order and Justice".

(*ii*) He is in charge of the administrative and development work of his subdivision under the control of the District Magistrate. He is in charge of law and order of his subdivision.

The Sadar subdivision has got 11 *Anchals* The *Anchal* is a unit for revenue administration and for development work. Each *Anchal* has been placed under a Gazetted Officer who is called Block Development Officer or *Anchal Adhikari*. He is normally of the rank of Deputy Collector or Sub-Deputy Collector.

An *Anchal Adhikari* or the Block Development Officer has to do all the revenue and development work of an *Anchal*. He is the

*Provisional figures for 1961 census were obtained from Darbhanga Collectorate.

head of his office and working under the Subdivisional Officer and the District Magistrate. He is both the drawing and disbursing officer of funds for his *Anchal*. He is vested with the powers of a Magistrate, Second Class to maintain law and order of his *Anchal*.

The *Anchal* headquarters are at Darbhanga, Hayaghat, Keotirunway, Singhwara, Bahadurpur, Jale, Benipur, Beheri, Manigachhi, Biraul and Ghanshyampur.

DARBHANGA TOWN

This town is situated on the bank of the Little Bagamati river and is the administrative headquarters of Darbhanga district. The population of this town is 1,03,106 according to the figure of 1961 census so it has become a city now. The following chart will show the variation of population in Darbhanga town from 1901 to 1961:—

Year.	Persons.	Variation.	Percentage variation.	Net variation 1901—1961.
1	2	3	4	5
1901	66,244	..	..	..
1911	62,628	—3,616	—5.46	..
1921	53,700	—8,928	—14.26	..
1931	60,676	+6,976	+12.99	..
1941	69,203	+8,527	+14,05	..
1951	84,816	+15,613	+22.56	..
1961	1,03,106	+18,290	+21.56	+36,862

O'Malley, in the old Gazetteer (1907), Darbhanga mentions—"Headquarters station and principal town of the district, situated on the bank of the Little Baghmati river. It probably takes its name from one Darbhangi Khan, a Muhammadan free-booter, of whom little or nothing is known, though local patriotism insists that the name is a corruption of Dar-i-Bengal, i.e., the gate of Bengal. The whole country round the town becomes a swamp during the rains, being subject to inundations from the Kamla and Little Baghmati; and the civil station and public offices were, therefore, moved in 1884 to the suburb of Laheriasarai at the extreme south of the town.

"The town stretches for five or six miles along the bank of the Little Baghmati, which is spanned by two large iron girder

*Provisional figures for 1961 census were obtained from Darbhanga Collectorate.

bridges. Its most conspicuous feature is a number of large tanks, which give it a picturesque appearance during the rains. The names of the largest are Ganga Sagar, Dighi, Harahi and Lakshmi Sagar. The three first are situated in a line, with a drive passing from one to the other, and their united length is 6,000 feet; Harahi being 1,600 feet long and 1,000 feet broad; Dighi 2,400 feet long and 1,200 feet broad; the Ganga Sagar 2,000 feet long and 1,000 feet broad. It has been conjectured that these were excavated in order to secure raised ground for sodiers' quarters, this theory resting on the belief that the town was once a Musalman cantonment. The local tradition, however, is that in the time of Raja Siva Singh, a fisherwoman, with a basket of fish on her head, was on her way to market, accompanied by her daughter-in-law. A kite from a neighbouring tree pounced down and carried away a fish from the basket. Instead of sympathising with her, the daughter-in-law began to laugh. Enraged at her unfilial conduct, the mother-in-law gave vent to her anger, and a hot quarrel ensued. All this was witnessed by the Raja as he sat at his window, and he lost no time in sending for the women. He asked the younger woman the cause of her unseasonable laughter; but she begged hard to be excused, saying that if she told her story it would be certain death to her. The Raja's curiosity being roused, he insisted on hearing her reason. 'In the reign of king Yudhisthir', said the younger fisherwoman, 'I was a kite'. During the war of the Mahabharata, I carried away the arm of a woman, with a golden bracelet weighing 80 maunds, and brought it here and ate it. I laughed at the thought of the petty greed of the puny kites of the present time, who do not mind pouncing down on a paltry fish'. Saying this, she expired. The Maharaja, curious to find out the truth of the story, ordered a series of tanks to be dug in the places pointed out. At last, his perseverance was rewarded by finding the skeleton of the arm, as well as the golden bracelet; and so the tank in which they were found was called *Harahi* or the bone tank.*

"In respect of population, Darbhanga ranks third among the towns of the Patna Division. The population of the town increased from 53,744 in 1872 to 65,955 in 1881 and to 73,561 in 1891, but fell again to 66,244 in 1901. the total number of inhabitants including 47,946 Hindus, 18,122 Muhammadans and 171 Christians. This decrease, however, is to a great extent fictitious, as the population of the town was abnormally large in 1891 on account of the presence of some 5,000 Brahmans who had come to partake of a feast given by the Maharaja of Darbhanga, whereas in 1901 the date of the census was an auspicious one for weddings, and consequently a large number of persons were temporarily absent. Communications by road are good in all directions. The town is connected with the North Ganges railway system by a line from Samastipur on the south, which branches off at Darbhanga in two

* Names of places in Bihar by J. Christian, Calcutta Review, 1891.

directions, the first north-west to Sitamarhi and the second north-east to Khanwa Ghat on the Kosi. A considerable trade is carried on the principal exports being oil-seeds, *ghee* and timber; and the imports consisting of food-grains, salt, gunny cloth, piece-goods, lime and iron.

"Darbhanga was constituted a municipality in 1864, and the area within municipal limits is 7 square miles. A considerable portion of the town is of a rural character, for which very little is required in the way of drainage beyond seeing that the drains are kept clear and that the rain-water is carried off quickly. The natural fall is in most cases from west to east, but some parts drain towards them west. Besides the three large tanks to the east of the town, which have already been mentioned, there are numerous smaller tanks, 300 or 400 in number, which at present receive the rain-water and some of the sullage water of the town. A drainage scheme for carrying off rain-water and having six main outfalls was prepared some years ago, but it is only in the crowded portion of the town that a scheme of shallow surface drains is required. The water-supply is obtained from tanks, wells and the river; there are 383 private wells and 39 public wells; and 3 tanks, one of which belongs to the municipality, have been reserved for drinking water. The municipality contains 14 miles of metalled and 20 miles of unmetalled roads, and two markets, one belonging to the Darbhanga Raj and the other to the municipality. A large portion of the town has sprung up in recent time; and it contains few buildings of any interest. The principal buildings are the residence of the Maharaja of Darbhanga, a large modern building with extensive grounds covering 55 acres; the Darbhanga Raj Hospital, which is one of the finest in Bihar, and the Victoria Memorial Hall, which has taken the shape of a Town Hall, at Laheriasarai, one wing being used by the Hey Cock Club and containing a library".*

Since the time of O'Malley there have been many changes. The great earthquake of 1934 affected the town, a large part of it had to be reconstructed. Many Government buildings were demolished and had to be rebuilt on new design.

As Darbhanga town (including Laheriasarai) is the headquarters of the district, a large number of Government Offices are located here. Besides those, there are some colleges (1962), namely, C. M. College, Marwari College, Millat College, Maharani Adirani Rameshwari Tutorial Girls' College, a Medical College, a Homeopathic College and an Ayurvedic College. A Law College also is functioning in the premises of C. M. College. There is also a Technical School of Engineering and the Mithila Research Institute in the town. Recently a Sanskrit University also has been established. There is

*Extract from old District Gazetteer, Darbhanga. written by L. S. S. O' Malley (pp. 147—149).

a Blind School besides a large number of higher secondary, secondary and other schools of lower standard for the boys and girls, details of which are given in the Chapter "Education and Culture". A *Goshala* has been established in Mohalla Mirzapur of the town. The State hospital has been expanded. A State library, namely, Lakshameshwar Public Library and Chandradhari Museum are functioning. There are three cinema houses and daily markets in various parts of the town. The Post-Office along with the Telegraph and Telephone Offices have been greatly expanded recently. There are two clock towers, one at Laheriasarai and the other at Darbhanga. There are two beautiful mosques in the town—one is located at Mohalla Bakerganj (Laheriasarai) and the other at Katki Bazar (Darbhanga).

The great Earthquake of January, 1934 subsequently proved a boon to the town In that year Darbhanga Improvement Trust was sponsored by the Government and started functioning under the chairmanship of the Collector of Darbhanga.

This Trust drew up 14 schemes, viz. :—

Scheme nos. 1 and 2	..Regarding improvement in mohalla Shamsher Ganj.
Scheme no. 3	..Construction of oval market with metalled road round it.
Scheme no. 4	..Construction of residential houses in mohalla Lal Bagh and on Kila Ghat Road.
Scheme nos. 5 and 6	..Improvement in mohalla Ram Chowk.
Scheme no. 7	..Improvement in mohalla Bhagwan Das.
Scheme no. 8	...Improvement in Misser Toli.
Scheme no. 9	..Metalling of road from Darbhanga tower to Railway Station, Darbhanga.
Scheme no. 10	..Construction of pitched road from Town Hall, Darbhanga to mohalla Bhagwan Das.
Scheme no. 11	..Construction of *pucca* building in Mohalla Harahi Terrace.
Scheme no. 12	..Improvement in Makhamali Hasan Chowk mohalla.
Scheme no. 13	...Pitching of Lal Bagh road.
Scheme no. 14	..Pitching of Kathalbari road.

As the Darbhanga Improvement Trust had a short life from 1934 to 1947, it could undertake only 7 schemes, viz., scheme nos. 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14. The remaining schemes were shelved.

Under scheme no. 3 an oval market near the Darbhanga tower was constructed and a metalled road around was made. This market after completion was made over to the municipality at a nominal

price. The municipality later on made over the market to C College on lease basis.

Under scheme no. 4, thirty small residential brick-built houses were constructed at mohalla Lal Bagh and similarly 60 houses were constructed on Kila Ghat road near police outpost no. 5. These houses were later sold to the public.

Under scheme no. 9, a metalled road about one mile long was constructed from Darbhanga tower to Darbhanga Railway Station.

Under scheme no. 10, a pitched road about four furlongs was constructed from Town Hall, Darbhanga to Bhagwan Das joinin Pandasarai road.

Under scheme no. 11 one *pucca* building was constructed which contains 20 rooms occupied by shops. The building adjoining the vacant land was purchased by Darbhanga Raj.

Under scheme no. 13 a pitched road about 100 yards long was constructed in Saifullah Ganj mohalla.

Under scheme no. 14 a pitched road about three furlongs long was constructed from Saifallah Ganj to Kathalbari.

The remaining schemes were dropped because serious objections were raised by the public against the acquisition of lands, etc. The Darbhanga Improvement Trust was wound up in 1947 under Government orders, notification no. 4969-L.S. G., dated 20th May 1948. Since 1934 grain markets and cloth markets have sprung up in mohallas Gullubara, Katki Bazar and Bakerganj. Rajendra market was also an addition. A large number of new buildings have been constructed in the hospital area, court area, Raj area, mohallas Kadirabad, Kathalbari, Misser *toli*, Raham Ganj, Balbhadrapur and Bengali *tola*. Besides these, new constructions are going on in other parts of town itself. But many of these constructions are built in a haphazard manner and the growth of the town is lop-sided. These expansions are mostly going on at Lakshmi Sagar colony, Bibi Paker, Balbhadrapur and Bengali *tola*.

In spite of these constructions, the housing problem is very acute in the town due to a marked shift of population from the rural to urban areas. Another factor making the housing problem acute is the location of new offices in the town. The result is that the rental is very high ranging from Rs. 50 to Rs. 150 per month for *pucca* houses with only 2 to 3 rooms to 5 or 6 rooms while those of *katcha* houses vary from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50.

Slums still continue to exist at mohallas Lal Bagh, Bira, Sundarpur, Kathalbari, eastern portion of Balbhadrapur, Mullaganj, Saidpur and Lakshmi Sagar. These slum areas are inhabited

poor people who form a large majority in the town. There is a slum clearance programme now (1962).

The town is connected with other places by rail and by roads. There are two railway stations in it, viz., (i) Laheriasarai and (ii) Darbhanga. There is an aerodrome here which serves as a landing and take off ground for aeroplanes, but there is no public airways service connecting this town with other places. The details will be found in the Chapter on "Communications". Within the town itself there are cycle rickshaws, hackney carriages, tandam and bullock-carts as means of communication. The road-traffic is extremely heavy for the narrow roads without foot-paths or rickshaw tracks. The trans-district buses are very popular.

For the accommodation of visitors in the town a Circuit House, a Dak Bungalow, an Inspection Bungalow and Dharamshalas are available. Besides hotels there are a number of cheap road-side eating houses and tea shops which also offer temporary accommodation. These roadside shops mostly cater for the liti-gant public who come from outside the town.

The main industries of the town are basket-making, earthen pot-making, handloom weaving, rice mills, oil mills, shoe-making, metal utensils, trunks and wooden furniture-making.

Darbhanga town has got provision of electricity generated in the power house there but the general public is not fully electric-minded. The cause is mainly the inordinate delay in sanctioning electric connections whenever applied for. Even the municipality has provided the electric lights on the main roads only, the bye-lanes are still provided with kerosene oil lamps for lighting purposes.

Public water-supply in the town is obtained from two water towers belonging to the Public Health Engineering Department. One of which is at Lal Bagh area in Darbhanga and the other is near the courts in Laheriasarai. But as the supply is insuffi-cient tube-wells with hand pumps have been sunk in many places. Some people use well-water from wells within their compound. For washing and bathing purposes tanks are utilised. There are several very large tanks both at Darbhanga and at Laheriasarai. Besides these water towers belonging to the Public Health Engineering Department, there are two water towers, one attached to the Medical College hospital and the other belonging to Darbhanga Raj.

Darbhanga Municipality which covers both Darbhanga and Laheriasarai has 32 wards, each ward electing one Commissioner.

Besides these elected Commissioners, there are eight Commissioners nominated by Government. The town is hemmed in by little Baghnati river on one side and the railway line on the other and is extending like a ribbon covering 7 square miles. The residential areas in the town are spreading beyond the municipal limits, but these additional areas have not yet been taken over by the municipality. The municipality maintains 24.26 miles of *katcha*, 56.91 miles of *pucca* and 7.35 miles of tarred surface roads.

The town holds four *melas*: (*i*) at Krishna mandir at Subhankarpur mohalla but is held for one day only on *Janamastami* day and attracts about 15,000 people in it, (*ii*) Indra puja *mela* which is held within the Raj area in the month of *Bhadoh* last for about 10 days and attracts shops from outside Darbhanga and some 30,000 people attend it, (*iii*) Muharram *mela* which is held for one day only on the 10th day of Muharram and (*iv*) Dasehra *mela* which also is held for one day only on Dasehra day. The two last mentioned *melas* are held at different places. These two are not important *melas*.

The townscape of Darbhanga from a distance or from air appears striking with the mango groves, large tanks, ribbon roads and clusters of *tar* and plantain trees. But when one moves about the town the fascination wears out. As mentioned, the roads are narrow and thoroughly inadequate for heavy traffic. The narrow roads have no footpaths or rickshaw tracks. At about 10 o'clock in the morning the roads show hundreds of different types of vehicles (including bullock-carts), various species of animals, and crowds of pedestrians. The large tanks of the town that came out of the generosity of the rich for supply of water are hardly desilted now and have ceased to be a source of healthy drinking water. The watery ditches and swamps are fully utilised for growing of different types of water-berries. The *singhara* and *makhana* of Darbhanga are well known. The swamps breed mosquitoes as well.

The only good spot in the town is what may be called the Raj area. It is a well-planned area with avenues and some of the trees are quite ancient now. The string of well-built mansions, the Old Raj Secretariat, the Narghowna palace, the Anandbagh house, and the temples are interspersed with gardens and orchards. With the abolition of zamindari the interest of the Raj in arboriculture, gardens, etc., have naturally been diverted. The Lady Willingdon Hospital maintained by the Raj has closed down because of the opening of the Medical College and Hospital.

Outside the Raj area the town has nothing to boast of excepting the Government buildings. Even the Medical College and Hospital buildings appear to have been constructed in a sprawling manner and there is not much of architecture in them. There are

no parks or public gardens and children have no proper playing corner. Even school and college students have not adequate playgrounds.

Hasanpur.—This village in Samastipur subdivision is the headquarters of a Community Development Block of the same name. The village has a railway station of North-Eastern Railway.

According to the census of 1951 its total population was 2,391, i.e., 1,324 males and 1,067 females with 402 occupied houses. The total number of literate persons was 596 persons. i.e., 437 males and 132 females. The village has an area of 280 acres.

The village is commercially important. Commodities like grains, chillies, turmeric, sugar, *ghee*, and paddy are exported from Hasanpur to Samastipur, Patna, places in Uttar Pradesh and Assam by railway.

There is a sizeable market with various types of shops.

The village has a post office, a lower primary school, a middle school, a high school and a library. There is a big sugar mill in the village. The village is electrified and there are about four flour mills in the village. There is a statutory *Gram Panchayat* in the village.

Hayaghat.—This village in Sadar subdivision is the headquarters of a Community Development Block. There is a railway station of the same name on Samastipur-Darbhanga section. The village supplies vegetables, *ghee* and eggs to Darbhanga and Samastipur. A Paper mill is under construction at the village.

The village has a post office and lower, upper primary and middle schools. There is a good market with a number of shops of different types. The village is electrified and there are about four flour mills.

Ilmasnagar.—This village had an Indigo factory which is now converted into a large farm. The proprietor has introduced modern techniques of agriculture.

Jale.—This village in Sadar subdivision is the headquarters of a Community Development Block of the same name. It has a police-station, a library, schools of different grades and post office in the village.

The total population of the village according to the Census of 1951 was 9,534, i.e., 4,277 males and 5,257 females. Its thana number is 10 and it covers an area of 4,013 acres.

Jaynagar.—The last District Gazetteer mentions:—

"A village in the Madhubani subdivision, situated a few miles south of the Nepal frontier and a little east of the river Kamla, in 26° 35′ north, and 86° 9′ east. Population (1901) 3,551. The village contains the remains of a mud-built fort now in ruins. It is surrounded by a moat, and the remains of several turrets on each of its four sides are still visible. There is a tradition that a Muhammadan general selected this place as the site for a fort to resist the incursions of the hill tribes, but finding a dead body in the ground, he considered the spot unlucky and abandoned it. It is probably one of the line of forts which Ala-ud-din Hussain, King of Bengal (1493—1518) constructed from Kamrup in Assam to Bettiah, in order to resist the in-roads of the hill tribes. Near the fort is an encampment made by the English during the Nepalese war".

Jaynagar has expanded enormously and is now a town. Its population according to the census of 1951 was 3,706, i.e., 1,817 males and 1,889 females. According to the provisional census figures of 1961 its total population is 7,902 persons. It is under the jurisdiction of Jaynagar police-station and Jaynagar Block. Its thana number is 80 and area is 2,124 acres.

The town has a mixed population, consisting of agriculturists, businessmen and service-holders, but the businessmen predominate. The main castes are Marwaris, Surhis, Brahmans and Harijans. When the town grew, people from different provinces such as Bengal and Uttar Pradesh and different districts of Bihar came here to work and for business with Nepal and settled here.

There are seven lower primary schools including girl's schools, three middle schools and one high school and a college. There are about 800 students in the college and about 500 students in a high school established in the Second Five-Year Plan period. There are three libraries in this town.

The town has two post offices, one dak bungalow, a veterinary hospital, a State dispensary, a Sub-Registrar's office, two railway stations, one belongs to India and another belongs to Nepal Government. The railway line of Nepal Government runs from Jaynagar to Janakpur. This is a very important line from trade and communication point of view. About 2,000 visitors daily go to visit Janakpur temple which is under the jurisdiction of Nepal Government. The details regarding trade with Nepal has been discussed separately.

There is a notified area committee in this town which was established in 1955. There are 17 nominated members and a chairman in the committee. The town is divided into 3 wards.

Jaynagar town is electrified and there is a cinema house and the people are cinema minded. There are some hotels of ordinary standard and a *dharamshala*.

There are 5 oil and rice mills in the town. Nepal also exports rice and oil-seeds to Jaynagar every year in great quantity.

Jhanjharpur.—A village in Madhubani subdivision, situated on the North-Eastern Railway about 14 miles south-east of Madhubani. The village is at a distance of two miles from the Jhanjharpur railway station.

Regarding this village the last District Gazetteer (1907) by L. S. S. O'Malley mentioned that it was a large and thriving village, noted for the brass utensils turned out by the local braziers particularly the *panbatta* or box for keeping betel-leaf and the *gangajali* or water pot. He further mentioned that the place was noteworthy from the fact that all the children of the Maharaja of Darbhanga were born there and not at Darbhanga. But now this custom is not followed by the Maharaja family. It seems that many of the Darbhanga family died childless and that Pratap Singh, the Raja of Darbhanga from 1760 to 1776, had consulted a *mahanth* who lived at the village of Murnam not far off. The *mahanth* proceeding to Jhanjharpur burnt a lock of his hair and said that whoever dwelt there would have a male issue. Pratap Singh immediately commenced to build a house on the spot; but unfortunately for the *mahanth's* prediction, he died without an issue before the house was completed. Madhu Singh, his brother, however completed it. The village formerly belonged to a family of Rajputs, but as the Maharani always resided there when pregnant, Maharaja Chhatar Singh (1808 to 1839) bought it from them.

The village is under the jurisdiction of Jhanjharpur thana and *Anchal* of the same name. The thana number is 309 and it covers an area of 2,156 acres. According to the census of 1951 its total population was 5,466, i.e., 2,672 males and 2,794 females and according to provisional population figures of 1961 census its total population is 6,700, i.e., 3,218 males and 3,482 females.

The village has a mixed population consisting of agriculturists, businessmen and service holders, but the agriculturists predominate. The main castes are Brahman, Rajput, Kasera, Marwari and Harijans.

The village has a post office, a railway station, lower and upper primary schools, a high school and a college. There are about 800 students in the college. There is a public library with about 1,000 books in the village. It subscribes two daily newspapers.

So far as the trade and industry are concerned the village exports brass utensils, sugarcane and jute to Darbhanga, Patna,

Calcutta and places in Uttar Pradesh, etc. There is a *Kanskar* Industries Co-operative Society at Jhanjharpur. About 500 braziers are the members of this society and they are engaged in bell metal and brass metal industries. Their main raw materials are copper, brass and bell metal circular sheets and old rejected utensils which are purchased by the local markets or imported from Moradabad.

There is a statutory *Gram Panchayat* in the village. The houses are mostly mud-built with straw roofing. The village is electrified and there are about four flour mills in the village. It contains a temple of *Raktamata* and two *bazaras*, one called Pratabganj from Pratab Singh, and the other Sriganj from Madhu Singh's sister-in-law.

Jiwachh.—L. S. S. O' Malley in the last *District Gazetteer of Darbhanga* mentioned that there was a village named Jiwachh in the headquarters subdivision at a distance of 3 miles north-east of Darbhanga on the banks of Kamla. He mentioned that there a *mela* or religious gathering was held during full moon in the months of *Kartik* (October-November) and *Magh* (January-February) and it was principally attended by women, who imagined that bathing in the Kamla was a cure for sterility, and that it would give sickly children a new lease of life.

At present (1962) there is no Jiwachh village in Sadar subdivision at a distance of 3 miles north-east of Darbhanga on the banks of the Kamla. But there is Jiwachh river at a distance of 3 miles north-east of Darbhanga. The old village has been swept away by the river.

So far as the *mela* is concerned it is held in the months of *Kartik* and *Magh* at Gausa *ghat* (Kamla river) and Jiwachh *ghat* (Jiwachh river). At first women take their bath in river Jiwachh and then come to Gausa *ghat* (Kamla river), which is two miles west from Jiwachh river. They pour water on the idol of Siva near Gausa *ghat*.

Kakraul.—A village in Madhubani police thana and subdivision, situated at a distance of fifteen miles south from Laheriasarai. There is an all-weather road connecting this village with Laheriasarai.

The population according to 1951 census was 5,002, i.e., 2,474 males and 2,528 females in which 386 males and 30 females were literate and according to the census of 1961 its population is 5,712, i.e., 2,763 males and 294 females. It is under the jurisdiction of Madhubani Block. The area of the village is 2,840 acres. It is divided into seven *tolas*, namely, Kamalpur, Phoohari, Mahinathpur, Rampur, Babhnagari, Doomari and Teliapokhar.

Regarding this village the last District Gazetteer in 1907 mentioned that the place was a centre of the weaving of *khokti* cloth which was of good and firm texture and was largely bought by the Nepalese. But this business has died out now (1962).

The village is famous due to Kapileshwar Mahadeo Temple. It is said that the temple was built by Kapildeva Muni, the celebrated author of the collection of Vedic hymns called the *Sankhya yoga*. A fair is held near the temple annually in January. About 10,000 persons from the neighbouring villages gather here to worship lord Shiva. The fair lasts for about six days.

The village has a mixed population consisting of agriculturists, businessmen and service-holders, but the agriculturists predominate. The main castes are Maithil Brahmans, Rajputs and Mohammadans.

The village has four lower primary schools including a lower primary girls' school and a high school. There are two post offices in the village.

There are 40 tanks, 4 mosques and 6 temples in the village.

There are about 6 *pan-biri* and about 4 *kirana* shops in the village. There are two libraries and a statutory *Gram Panchayat* in the village.

Kalyanpur.—This village in Samastipur subdivision is the headquarters of a police thana and Community Development Block of the same name. A metalled Darbhanga-Muzaffarpur road runs through the village.

There is a library, a post office, a Central excise office, a lower school, an upper school and a middle school in the village. The block office maintains a poultry and an agricultural farm, a veterinary hospital and a general dispensary.

It has a small but growing market. The village is in centre of a rich tobacco growing area.

Keotiranway.—This village in Sadar subdivision is the headquarters of a Community Development Block of the same name.

It is under the jurisdiction of Darbhanga Sadar police-station and thana number is 392, and has an area of 1,036 acres.

According to the census of 1951 its total population was 2,695 persons, i.e., 1,265 males and 1,430 females, with 470 occupied houses.

There are a lower and an upper primary schools, a middle school and a high school, a post office and a library.

Khajauli.—A village in Madhubani subdivision at a distance of about 14 miles from Madhubani town has a police station and *anchal* office of the same name. The village is at a distance of 3 miles from the railway station of the same name.

According to the census of 1951 its total population was 1,180 persons, i.e., 590 males and 590 females with 184 occupied houses. The number of literate persons was 201, i.e., 187 males and 14 females.

There are a lower, an upper, a middle and a high school in the village. There was a tobacco factory in the village which has closed since ten years.

Khutauna.—This village in Madhubani subdivision is the headquarters of the Community Development Block of the same name. It is under the jurisdiction of Laukaha police station and has an area of 2,160 acres.

According to the census of 1951 its total population was 4,925, i.e., 2,415 males and 2,510 females with 1,045 occupied houses.

The village has lower primary, upper primary schools and a middle school. There are a post office, a veterinary dispensary and a general dispensary attached to the block.

Kishanpur.—A small but progressive village in Samastipur subdivision with a number of schools, library and a good market. There is also a *Gram Panchayat*.

Kusheswarasthan.—A frontier Kosi ravaged village of Samastipur subdivision which is the headquarters of a Community Development Block of the same name. It had a notoriety for bad climate and high incidence of Kalaazar and Malaria which have been controlled to some extent.

There is an ancient *Shiva* temple where people gather from all over the State at the time of *Shivaratri*. At that time a *mela* is held near the temple in which about 30,000 visitors come.

Ladania.—This village in Madhubani subdivision is the headquarters of a Community Development Block and police station of the same name. It is at a distance of 16 miles from Jaynagar railway station. It is on the border of Nepal and the area has got a notoriety for the smuggling of non-duty paid Nepali *ganja*. The communication is bad.

There are lower, upper primary and middle schools in the village.

There is also a statutory *Gram Panchayat* in the village.

Laukahi.—This village in Madhubani subdivision is the headquarters of a Community Development Block of the same name.

There are a lower, an upper and a middle school in the village. The village is at a distance of 12 miles from the Nirmali railway station. There is a statutory *Gram Panchayat* in the village.

Lehra.—The village is under the jurisdiction of Bahera police station and Manigachi Block and has an area of 1,793 acres. According to the census of 1951 its population was 3,600, i.e., 1,768 males and 1,832 females.

The last District Gazetteer (1907) mentions about the village as follows :—

> "A village in the headquarters subdivision, situated 13 miles east of Darbhanga on the main road from Madhubani to Bahera. Tradition connects this place with Siva Singh, the most famous of the last Hindu Kings of Tirhut, and ascribes to him the three great tanks in the village. The largest is known as Ghordaur, and legend relates that it was excavated by Siva Singh, who mounted on horse back, fixed its boundary by holding a pitcher of water in his right hand and allowing the water to flow through a spout, as he galloped his horse at its utmost speed until the water from the vessel had all been expended. This tank is about two miles long but there is water only at one end, the rest being now under cultivation. It seems that an old bed of the Kamla cut into it, and drained off nearly all the water. Siva Singh is said to have lived near this tank, and there are about 13 *bighas* of land now covered with bricks and jungle, which are pointed out as the site of his palace."*

At present (1962) about a half portion of the Ghordaur tank falls under Gorihari village. A tunnel begins from the palace of Siva Singh and is said to go up to the tank. It is said that the Maharani and other ladies of the palace used to go to the tank for the bath. Another important tank Rajokhori was also built by Raja Siva Singh. There is an old temple near the tank where villagers come to worship Lord Shiva on every Sunday.

The village has a mixed population consisting of agriculturists, businessmen and service holders, but agriculturists predominate. The main castes are Brahman, Khatri, Mallah, Sonar, Mohammadan, Harijan, etc.

*District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907), p. 150.

The village has a post-office, a lower primary school, a middle school for girls and boys both and a high school with about 500 students. There is a library named *Madhav Smarak Pustakalay* with about 3,000 books on different subjects. It subscribes two daily newspapers.

Maize, paddy, *makhana* and sugarcane are the important crops. The village sends sugarcane to Sakri Sugar Factory which is about five miles from here. A trolly railway line of Sakri sugar factory passes through this village. This village also exports fish to Darbhanga, Sakri, Samastipur, etc. The village is full of mango orchards.

As regards houses, about 50 per cent houses are *pucca* because villagers are well-to-do due to agriculture business and service. The village is electrified and there are about 100 radio sets and four flour mills in the village. There is a statutory *Gram Panchayat* in the village.

Lohat.—It is under the jurisdiction of Madhubani subdivision. The nearest railway station is Pandaul. There is a sugar factory in the village.

The main produce of the village are maize, *bajra, juwar* and sugarcane. There are lower and upper primary schools and a post office in the village.

Madhepur.—This village is situated in Madhubani subdivision and police station of the same name and has an area of 2,724 acres.

According to the census of 1951 its total population was 6,946 persons, i.e., 3,434 males and 3,512 females with 1,472 occupied houses.

There are a lower, an upper, a middle and a high school in the village. There is a public library, a post office and a statutory *Gram Panchayat.*

Madhubani subdivision.—The Madhubani subdivision is the northern subdivision of the district, lying between 26°2′ and 26°40′ North and 85°45′ and 86°44′ East. It has a total area of 1,350 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the Nepal *Tarai*, on the west by the Sitamarhi subdivision of the Muzaffarpur district, on the east by Supaul of Saharsa district, and on the south by the headquarters subdivision of Darbhanga.

The total population of the subdivision according to the two last censuses are :—

Year.	Total population.	Males.	Females.
1951	1,361,699	659,900	701,799
1961*	1,602,906	779,344	823,562

In shape, the subdivision resembles a parallelogram, its mean breadth from west to east being a little greater than its mean length from north to south. It consists of a rich alluvial plain intersected by numerous rivers and streams issuing from the Nepal hills and running almost parallel to each other from north to south. The chief of these rivers are the little Baghmati, Kamla, Karai, Balan and Tiljuga. The little Baghmati enters the subdivision at Bishanpur Ugarpati about 10 miles west of Benipatti, and after being joined by its tributary the Dhaus near Bankuta in the same thana, takes a south easterly course.

The Kamla river flows southward from the hills and falls into the little Baghmati. This river frequently changes its course and its beds are found all over the north of the subdivision. To the east of this river are little Balan and the Balan proper and the Tiljuga which skirts the eastern boundary of the subdivision.

The Subdivisional Officer is the head of the administration of the subdivision and he is directly under the administrative control of the District Magistrate. There are four revenue thanas, namely, Madhubani, Benipatti, Khajauli and Phulparas and eleven police-stations, namely, Benipatti, Harlakhi, Madhwapur, Khajauli, Ladania, Jaynagar, Madhubani, Jhanjharpur, Phulparas, Madhepur and Laukaha under this subdivision.

The Madhubani subdivision has eighteen Blocks or *Anchals*. The *Anchal* is an unit for revenue administration as for development work. Each *Anchal* has been placed under a gazetted officer who is called Block Development Officer or *Anchal Adhikari*. He is normally of the rank of a Deputy Collector or a Sub-Deputy Collector. An *Anchal Adhikari* or the Block Development Officer has to do all the revenue and development work of an *Anchal*. He is the head of his office and working under the Subdivisional Officer and the District Magistrate. He is the drawing and disbursing officer of funds for his *Anchal*. He is vested with the powers of a Second Class Magistrate to maintain law and order of his *Anchal*.

The incidence of education and literacy is fairly high. The people of this subdivision pay much attention to education. There

*Provisional figures for 1961 Census were obtained from Darbhanga Collectorate.

are 48 high schools including higher secondary schools and about 10 colleges in this subdivision and many lower and upper primary schools.

There is a municipality at Madhubani and a notified area committee at Jaynagar. The details of municipality and notified area committee will be found in Local Self-Government chapter.

This subdivision has a number of important villages and could be said to be the core of Maithil culture. Ancient traditions and customs are still maintained in many of the villages. Mangrauni village within 3 miles of the subdivisional headquarters will give one the impression that time has stood still here and we are in a different age.

As regards trade, this subdivision exports fish, handloom cloth, *makhana* (water berries), mangoes, sugarcane, *lichi*, paddy, hide and brass metal articles to Patna, Kanpur, Calcutta, Mokameh, Darbhanga, etc. It imports medicine, machine, soap and shoes, etc., from Patna, Kanpur, Calcutta, Uttar Pradesh, etc. Regarding trade with Nepal it appears from tour diaries of Subdivisional Officer of Madhubani during 1888 to 1890 that Madhubani subdivision was an important trade centre in the later part of the 19th century as well. There used to be frontier Trade Registration offices at Madhwapur and Umgaon. The principal imports from this subdivision to Nepal were cotton, sugar, silk, betel-nut and tobacco and export from Nepal was paddy, timber, mustard seed, *dal*, etc. Paddy, oilseeds, timber are the principal imports now. A number of rice mills and timber saw-mills have been set up in Madhubani subdivision on Nepal border. There is a high incidence of smuggling of non-duty paid *ganja* from Nepal through Madhubani subdivision.

Maithil Brahmans predominate in the subdivision. The other castes are Rajputs, Mohammadans, Kayasthas, Gwalas, Banias and Harijans. In this subdivision houses are generally mud built and bamboo splits with tile and straw roofing. People have also started constructing *pucca* houses in the rural areas as well.

So far as the agricultural production is concerned, this subdivision is mainly a paddy and sugarcane growing area. The staple food is rice, *dal* and vegetables, *murhi* (fried rice), *gur*, *chura*, curd and *ghughni* (boiled gram) constitute their favourite tiffin. Use of *biri*, tobacco, *pan* and *supari* (betel-nut) are very common.

In this subdivision a number of famous *melas* are held at Saurath, Kapileshwarasthan, Silanath, etc., which are visited by a very large number of men.

Madhubani Town.—Madhubani town is the headquarters of the subdivision of the same name. The total population of the town according to 1951 census was 23,283 whereas according to the provisional figures of 1961 census the population is 28,233, i.e., 14,906 males and 13,327 females. The following chart will show the variation of population in Madhubani town from 1901 to 1961:—

Year.	Persons.	Variation.
1901	17,802	..
1911	16,500	—1,302
1921	16,582	+82
1931	18,789	+2,207
1941	20,272	+1,483
1951	23,283	+3,011
1961	28,233	+4,950

From the above census figures it appears that the population of the town is increasing rapidly.

Regarding Madhubani town L.S.S.O'Malley in the last District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907) mentions that "Headquarters town of the subdivision of the same name, situated about 16 miles north-east of Darbhanga town in 26°21′ North and 86°5′ East. Population (1901) 17,802. Madhubani is an important trading centre on the road from the Sakri railway station to the Nepal frontier. It was constituted a municipality in 1869, and the area within municipal limits is 4 square miles. The town runs north and south, the principal thorough fare being in that direction. It contains the usual public offices, a dispensary and sub-jail with accommodation for 12 prisoners. To the north of the town is the residence of some large land owners, known as the Madhubani Babus, who are connections of the Maharaja of Darbhanga, as they are descended from Kirat Singh, the third son of Madhu Singh, who was the proprietor of the Darbhanga Raj at the end of the 18th century. The name of Madhubani means the honey forest and points to a time when the land on which the town stands was covered by an uncleared forest, from which bees-wax was obtained by a scanty population".*

There have been fundamental changes in Madhubani since L.S.S.O'Malley's days. Madhubani has expanded enormously and is now a large town in the district of Darbhanga.

The town is a place of some commercial and trade importance. Commodities like handloom cloth, *Khadi* cloth, sugarcane, *makhana* (water berries), mangoes, oilseed, castor seed, paddy and fish are

*District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907), pp. 151-152.

exported from Madhubani to Darbhanga, Patna, Samastipur, Calcutta, Muzaffarpur. During 1960-61 about 45,540 maunds per month of goods such as handloom cloth, oilseeds, paddy, etc., were exported and about 59,355 maunds per month of goods such as mill made cloth, medicine, soap, kerosene oil, etc., were imported from Calcutta, Kanpur, Patna, etc., by the railway. The average earning per month from goods traffic was Rs. 52,531. So far as the traffic is concerned, about 36,064 persons per month visited and went outside the town in 1960-61 and the average earning from passenger traffic per month was Rs. 27,250 from Madhubani station. The town contains about 20 grain stockists, 30 wholesalers and about 60 retail sale dealers. The area grows a good quantity of sugarcane which is generally supplied to Sakri and Samastipur Sugar Factories.

The town is at the junction of several roads, Madhubani-Jaynagar, Madhubani-Jhanjharpur, Madhubani Benipatti and Madhubani-Darbhanga, etc. These roads connect Madhubani to Darbhanga, Chapra, Muzaffarpur and Patna. Buses and trucks ply on these distant places with passengers and commodities. Madhubani town registers an outflow of about 1,000 persons per day and receives about 600 persons from other places such as Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Jaynagar, Rohika, etc.

The town is inhabited by Hindu and Mohammadan communities. There are about twenty castes in the town and the Brahmans and Mohammadans hold the largest majority in the town. The number of Rajputs, Kurmis and Marwaris and Kayasthas is not so large.

The incidence of education and literacy is fairly high. The people of Madhubani town pay much attention to education. The town has 11 lower primary schools excluding 4 *maktabs*, 8 upper primary schools, two middle, three high schools including a girls school and a college. There is co-education in the college and about 2,000 students are reading in it. Besides there is also an *Ayurvedic* college in the town and the number of students is about thirty-five.

So far as medical and public health is concerned, the town contains a Subdivisional Hospital with an accommodation of 45 beds out of which 30 are for males and 15 for females. Besides there are about seven allopathic, eight homoeopathic and four *ayurvedic* private practitioners in the town. There is also an Anti-Malaria office. There is no sewerage system within the town and there is a general lack of sense of sanitation.

The Government also maintains a veterinary dispensary in the town. There is no fire service maintained by the municipality. The town is electrified and there are three cinema houses in the town. It was observed by the investigator that the town people

are very much cinema minded. The students are the best patrons of the cinema houses. This may be due to the fact that there are hardly any other sources of recreation.

The town is important from the administration point of view. Besides being the subdivisional headquarters of the subdivision, it has a large number of offices of both Central and State Government. Some of these Central Government departments are Post and Telegraph office, the Railway, the branch office of the State Bank of India and the Life Insurance Corporation of India. Some of the State offices are those of Subdivisional Officer, Sub-jail, Deputy Superintendent of Police's office, Subdivisional Officer, Education, *Anchal* office and Anti-Malaria office, etc.

The main industries of the town are basket making, earthen pot-making, handloom and *Khadi* weaving and wooden furniture making.

Madhwapur.—This village in Madhubani subdivision is the headquarters of a Community Development Block of the same name. It has an area of 542 acres. The nearest railway station is Pupri at a distance of 13 miles.

According to the census of 1951 its total population was 2,717 persons, i. e., 1,338 males and 1,379 famales with 427 occupied houses.

There are a lower and an upper primary school, a middle school and a post office in the village. There is a statutory *Gram Panchayat* in the village.

Malinagar.—A village in Samastipur subdivision, situated at a distance of 23 miles south-west of Laheriasarai. A metalled Laheriasarai-Muzaffarpur road runs through the village. It is bounded on the north by Phulha village, on the south by Burhi Gandak river, on the east by Bakhtiarpur village and on the west by Saidpur village.

This village is under the jurisdiction of Kalyanpur police station and Kalyanpur Block. According to the provisional population figures of 1961 census its total population is 3,936, i e., 2,034 males and 1,902 females and the total number of literates is 832, i. e., 655 males and 177 females.

The village contains a temple of Mahadeo, which was built in 1844 by a local businessman. An annual *mela* on *Ramnaumi* day is held which lasts for about five days. About 20,000 visitors come to the *mela* every year. This *mela* is partly religious and partly commercial.

The village has a mixed population consisting of agriculturists, businessmen and service holders but the agriculturists predominate. The main castes are Bhumihar Maithil Brahman, Khatri, Koeri, Gwala, Dusadh and Mohammadan.

The village has a post office, a State poultry farm, a lower primary school, a basic school and a high school. There is a library which was established in 1954.

The main crops are maize, paddy, tobacco and sugarcane. *Chura* and curd form the main diet besides rice and wheat. The village exports mangoes and *lichies* to Muzaffarpur, Patna, Samastipur, etc. The village is full of mango and *lichi* orchards.

There is a statutory *Gram Panchayat* in the village. The houses are mostly mud-built with straw roofing. The village has got electricity. But very few houses have got electric connection. There are two flour mills. There is a night centre for adult education in the Harijan *tola* of the village. There are four temples and a mosque and 7 *kirtan mandlies* in the village.

Malmal.—A large village under Khajauli police thana in Madhubani subdivision. It has an area of 4,022 acres.

According to the census of 1951 its total population was 8,720, i. e., 4,049 males and 4,671 females with 1,344 occupied houses The total number of literate persons was 754, i. e., 625 males and 129 females.

The village has a post office and a number of schools.

Mangrauni.—The village is situated at a distance of about 24 miles north of the district headquarters, under the jurisdiction of Madhubani subdivision at a distance of 3 miles in northern direction. It is under Rajnagar Community Development Block. A *kacha* dusty road leads to this village from Madhubani. The nearest railway station is Madhubani. It is divided into seven *tolas*, namely, Harinagar, Laheriaganj, Gorakshani, Navtoli, Pilakhwar, Jharitoli, Mangrauni and Sheikhtoli.

This village, according to the Panjikars, is more than a thousand years old. The original name of the village was 'Mangalvani'. In Hindi 'Mangal' means benevolence and 'vani' means followers. The present name 'Mangrauni' is the crude form of the word 'Mangalvani'. In Maithil language the crude form for 'Va (व)' is 'ao (औ)', then the name becomes 'Mangalauni' but 'la (ल)' becomes '*ra*(र)', hence its name becomes 'Mangrauni'.

The total area of the village is 2,060 acres with 2,118 number of occupied houses and a total population of 5,075 souls, i. e., 2,497 males and 2,578 females and 577 males and 114 females are

literate.* There are twenty-four tanks in the village. The tanks are utilized for household purposes, irrigation and growing of *makhana*.

The village has produced a number of scholars with contributions. About eight hundred years back there was one Shri Pandit Narsimha Tarkvagish, unfortunately whose works have not been preserved.

About five hundred years ago another great scholar, Sri Pandit Ruchipati, had come to this village and settled down. It is said that it was he who took interest in developing this village. His grand-son Sri Pandit Ramabhadra had five sons who are popularly known as *Pancharudruviar*, i. e., incarnations of Lord Shiva.

His (Ramabhadra) eldest son Pandit *Rajpadankit* Madhusudan had a son named Madan. It is said that since 1,000 years before and after, the birth of Madan, none have achieved such a great supernatural power as he. The story goes that once on the day of *Amavas Pariva* he had said "Today is *dwitiya*". The other *Pandits* who were present replied, "Today is Pariva". Then he (Madan) said that he does not recognise the almanac. He further said that if the moon rises today, then it will be ***dwitiya*** and actually it happened so that due to his supernatural power the moon had risen. Still he is known as the preceptor (***Guru***) of the *Tantrik Vidya* and is respected by all the ***Tantriks*** of India.

Madan's younger brother was Pandit Vidyanidhi Pitamber. He (Vidyanidhi) is known from his son's (Gokulnath's) works, that he had also written many authentic books on *Tantra Vidya* unfortunately his (Vidyanidhi) works have not yet been found. Thirty to forty works of Pandit Gokulnath have been preserved and some of them are the following:—*Chintamani Tika, Chakra Rashmi, Didhita Vidyota* (on *Nyaya Philosophy*), *Padavakya Ratnakara* (commentary on all the philosophies but especially on *Shabda Vidya*), *Kavya Prakash Tika* (on literature), *Mithyatwanirukti* (on Vedanta philosophy), *Amritodayanatakam* (commentary on all the 12 schools of philosophy), *Laghavagaurava Rahasya* (useful for all the philosophies), etc. He is known as *Tarkika kula Guru*.

Pandit Gokulnath's son *Trihasarvasvadata* Raghunath was a genius. It is said that thrice he had given away all of his belongings in *dan* (gift), therefore, he is known as *Trihasarvasvadata*. A tank known as ***Buddhivardhini*** had been excavated by him. This tank is still there.

Another brother among the *Pancharudravatar* was Pandit Vagish whose son Dhirendra was another *Siddha purush*.

The grand-son of Pandit Raghunath was Shankar Datta who was the *guru* of the great revolutionary leader of 1857, Kunwar Singh and Amar Singh, of Shahabad. During the revolution of

*District Census Handbook of Darbhanga (1951), published in 1955, p. 228.

1857, the British army had come to arrest him (Shankar Datta) over here. His small citadel in ruins is still present.

The village is electrified but only a few of the villagers have taken the advantage of this facility. There are about 200 *Kargha Udyogs* and *Sari*, *dhoti*, *gamchha*, *loongi*, etc., are made, and sent to other parts of the district also. The coarse *khadi* cloth is also washed here. Besides there are three *kolhus* and one flour mill. There are two cream extracting machines here. The extracted cream is sent to the other parts of the district. Sugarcane is grown and there are cane crushing machines and *gur* is produced.

Poultry farming is also common but it is only maintained by the Musahars and Muslims of the village. Eggs are sent outside and also sold at Madhubani. Fish rearing is common. There is a tank of about 22 bighas in which fishes are reared. This tank was excavated in 1941-42 by Darbhanga Maharaja.

As Madhubani town is quite close, there is no market or *hat* in the village. There are only a few shops of grains and other eatables.

There is a private *dharmashala* in a temple. There are four lower primary schools including a *Madarsa* for boys and girls. Besides there is a Sanskrit High School. There are two libraries, namely, Gandhi Pustakalaya and Vinod Pustakalaya.

There are about 12 temples in the village out of which the temple of goddess Bhagwati, God Shankar, Sita Rama and Ekadasha Rudra is of considerable importance. Another temple known as *Burhimai Ka Mandir* is noted in the district. It is said that this is the first place in Bihar where the image of Goddess Durga was established. Another temple known as *Navaratra Mandir* is in dilapidated condition. It was built by the Raj Darbhanga family.

Manigachi.

This village in Sadar subdivision is the headquarters of a Community Development Block of the same name. It is under the jurisdiction of Bahera police station. There are lower and upper primary schools, a middle school, a dispensary, a post office, and a statutory *Gram Panchayat*.

The village is inhabited mostly by the Maithil Brahmans. There is a centre of the cottage industry of *sikki* (reed) products.

Mohiuddinagar.

This village in Samastipur subdivision is the headquarters of a thana and a Community Development Block of the same name.

According to the census of 1951 its total population was 2,986, i.e., 1,459 males and 1,527 females with 410 occupied houses.

The village has a lower primary school, an upper primary school, a middle school, a high school and a library. Besides there are a post office, a veterinary dispensary and a general dispensary in the village.

The village has an important market. There are a number of cloth and grain shops.

Muktapur.

It is a growing township and will ultimately become a part of Samastipur town, the distance being only four miles. There is a railway station which handles a good turn-over of commodities, although most of the produce of the area is taken to Samastipur station.

There is a big jute factory with a sizeable colony of the supervisory staff and workers. There is a post office and a number of school of different grades. The village was a seat of an indigo factory and was converted into a big farm by an enlightened zamindar who did his own cultivation and introduced mechanised cultivation quite early. He had also founded some of the schools at the village and established an annual *mela* which provided many amusements like racing, etc.

Narahia.

A village in the north-eastern corner of the Madhubani subdivision, situated a few miles north-east of Phulparas. It is connected by a metalled road to the railway station Nirmali which is about four miles.

The village is under the jurisdiction of Phulparas police station, Phulparas *Anchal* and has an area of 2,854 acres. According to the census of 1951 its total population was 5,958, i.e., 2,890 males and 3,068 females with 1,126 occupied houses. The number of literate persons was 789, i.e., 737 males and 52 females.

The village has a mixed population consisting of agriculturists, businessmen and service holders, but the agriculturists predominate. The main castes are Brahmans, Rajputs, Mohammedans and Harijans.

The village has a post office, a lower primary school, an upper primary school and a middle school and a public library.

The main crops are maize, paddy, sugarcane, *jawar* and *bajra* *Chura* and curd form the main diet besides rice and wheat. There

are big grain *golas* in the village market and this is an important centre for the Nepalese grain traffic.

There is a statutory *Gram Panchayat* and there are about six *kirtan mandalies* in the village.

Panchobh.

This village is in Sadar subdivision and has an area of 1,123 acres. It is under the jurisdiction of Sadar thana.

According to the census of 1951 its total population was 3,245, i.e., 1,565 males and 1,680 females.

The village has a lower primary school, a middle school, a Sanskrit *pathsala*, a library and a *Gram Panchayat*. There is a good market with a number of shops.

Phulparas.

This village in Madhubani subdivision is the headquarters of a Community Development Block of the same name and has a police thana.

According to the census of 1951 its total population was 3,098 persons, i.e., 1,539 males and 1,559 females with 529 occupied houses. The total number of literate persons was 362, i.e., 346 males and 16 females.

There are statutory *Gram Panchayat*, a library and a number of schools of different status.

PUSA

Past History.

Situated at a distance at 8¼ miles from the Pusa Road railway station on the North-Eastern Railway—Pusa is once again coming into importance and is redeeming its past glory. It has become the seat of the Central Sugarcane Research Station of Bihar although there are numerous other nation-building departments of Government of Bihar functioning here. A portion of it is still occupied by the Government of India. Pusa is connected by highways from Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur towns.

Pusa enjoys a site well bedecked with nature's bounties full of green meadows and rich crop fields, beautiful avenues flanked on both sides with ever-green and ornamental *ashoka* and giant *sal* trees. Its beautiful roads hemmed with well trimmed *dubha* grass and hedges offer a pleasant sight. The fruit orchards with varieties of fruits of rare species are an attraction of the people. The river Gandak offers natural boundary on three sides of the Pusa Estate as if it is being fondled in her lap.

This beautiful village has an interesting past. A Stud at Pusa was established through a *Sanad* of July 5, 1764 with the East India Company's seal. This was started with a view to growing grass and English grains for horses and for pasture lands. The East India Company agreed to pay to the Zamindar a rental of 1,500 *Sicca* rupees for the lands occupied. Captain W. Fraser was the first Superintendent of the Stud Farm. Here breeding operations of many types of horses were carried on. This is because the Saraisa Horses are still known to be of good quality all over India. (Pusa falls in the Saraisa *Pargana*.) The various sections of the area are at present known by the varieties of the horses bred here.

The prices of foodgrains of those days are of historical importance. In 1794, wheat was selling at 2 maunds a rupee, barley 3 maunds and 20 seers, gram 1 maund and 35 seers, and paddy the most important grain of the area sold at 5 maunds to a rupee. In 1795, milk sold at, 52 seers a rupee and ghee 5¼ seers to the rupee.

The village was completely acquired by the Government of Bengal (Bihar then was a part of Bengal) in the year 1796. The other waste lands appertaining to Bakhtyarpur, a village on the other side of the river (population 1,384) were assigned to Government in 1798 without any additional rent. This new assignment of lands served as a grass-feeder to the horses bred at Pusa. The tenants of this village were required to grow oats and other English grasses for supply at Pusa. They used to get *Dadni* for this. Those who refused to grow these grasses were subjected to tortures like the tenants of Nilha Sahibs.

Towards the end of 1874, these horse-breeding operations were abandoned. The property was then for a short time utilised as a model or experimental farm—special attention being devoted to growing and curing of tobacco. These experiments proved to be a failure. It was then leased out to M/s Begg, Dunlop & Co., of Calcutta for tobacco growing experiments in the year 1877. They started a tobacco factory for curing cigarette tobacco. This business lasted for about 20 years when in 1897 the Bengal Government treminated the lease to the Company and assumed charge of the entire properties. In 1902, a scheme was prepared for utilising the Estate as a cattle breeding and dairy farm to which were added proposals for establishing an Agricultural Research Station and college. The scheme as finally approved by the Government of India was sanctioned by the Secretary of State. On the 26th of December 1903, the property was formally handed over by the Bengal Government to the Government of India. From 1904, the preliminary work of clearing and levelling of the site began. Its name then was Agricultural Research Institute and College. This name was changed to the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa in the year 1929.

The Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, owed its inception to the generosity of Mr. Henry Phipps, an American Philanthropist, who in 1903, placed at the disposal of Lord Curon, the then Viceroy and Governor-General of India, three donations of £ 20,000 (which he afterwards raised to £ 30,000) to be devoted to some object of public utility in India preferably in the direction of scientific research. A part of this donation was utilised for the construction of a Pasture Institute at Coonoor in South India, and it was decided that the balance should be utilised in erecting a laboratory for Agricultural Research which would form a centre of economic science dealing with the development of agriculture on which the people of India mainly depend. This laboratory was named as Phipp's Laboratory after the name of the donor. The magnificent building cost about Rs. 9 lakhs in those days. The building was, therefore, popularly known as "Naulakha". This consisted of two-storeyed ornate range with flat roof surmounted by a large and massive dome over looking the Himalayas in clear weather.

This Agricultural Research Institute was fully equipped with laboratories, a museum, herbaria and an up-to-date scientific library. The activities of the Institute were mainly directed towards research experiment and education. On research side the Institute dealt with problems of general and all-India importance or with problems which could not be studied properly or conveniently by Provincial Governments. On the education side, it served the purpose of a higher teaching institution providing post-graduate courses for selected graduates of Provincial Colleges and distinguished graduates of Indian Universities.

This glory of Bihar received a severe shock in the year 1934 when the magnificent administrative buildings and laboratories were destroyed by the great Earthquake in 1934, which devastated the whole of North Bihar. The damages done were not such that were beyond repairs. But instead of repairing or re-building the Station at Pusa, the then Government of India decided to shift the Institute to New Delhi. This proposal of the Government of India received overwhelming support from the upcountry men, especially by the majority of the officers and staff of this Institute as New Delhi was better suited to them. There was a great agitation and protests from the people of Bihar against this decision of the India Government but in vain. The old bureaucracy of the day had its own way. The Institute was shifted. This shifting cost the Government lacs of rupees. The new site of the Institute at Delhi is also known as New Pusa after its old location. The Government did not remain satisfied with the shifting of the Institute. Even the traces of the building were wiped out by dismantling this massive building although people of Bihar urged for maintaining this building even in ruins as monument for future history of Bihar. The cost of dismantling amonuted to over fifteen thousand of rupees. Today

there stands an orchard on the site of this glorious institute. To those who have seen the Institute in bloom are left only the reminiscences of the old historic Institution.

In the year 1935, the Government of India decided to relinquish the Pusa Estate. At this time the Government of Bihar took timely opportunity and purchased the Estate from the India Government at a nominal cost of Rs. 2,05,000 including buildings and other installations. An area of 150 acres with a few buildings was excluded for the Botanical Sub-station of the Government of India who retained this section at Pusa. This then became the seat of the Deputy Director of Agriculture of the Government of Bihar. An experimental farm on a very large scale was started here. This experimental farm dealt with problems of general agriculture of the province with a small dairy herd. Sugarcane Research Institute which had its beginning at Musheri near Muzaffarpur town was shifted to this place. Experimental work on different aspects of sugarcane agriculture, namely, agronomy, botany including physiology, chemistry including sugarcane, *gur* and soil, entomology, pathology and statistics, was started with a view to render real service to cultivating community and milling interest as well.

SUGARCANE RESEARCH.

In 1947, the entire farm and Estate came under the control of the Sugarcane Specialist (now Director of Sugarcane Research and Development). It is on the vestiges of the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research of India that the present Central Sugarcane Research Station of the Government of Bihar stands today. At this Research Station a band of Agricultural Scientists are engaged for research work. The investigations and recommendations of these scientists are of immense value to sugar industry. The research on sugarcane at this station has made great progress. Recently a fellowship has been created at this Station for carrying on advanced research in sugarcane. A new Sugarcane Research Laboratory has been erected in the same orchard which held the glorious building of the past. This Research Station employs over two thousand workers in its different sections. The farm attached to the station is not only a research farm but it is a paying concern too. The farm has a revenue of over two lacs a year.

Besides there are sections of other development departments like Bachhaur Cattle Breeding Farm where *Bachhaur* type bulls and cows are reared and bred. This breeding farm also conducts experiments in breeding of improved goats of Australia, Jamunapari goats, white Yorkshire pigs, ducks and hens. The Dairy maintained by this farm caters the supply of fresh milk not only to Pusa but also to Muzaffarpur and other towns.

A few years back a Research Station for conducting experiments on *hoocca* and chewing tobacco has been established with 40 acres of land under the auspices of the Indian Central Tobacco Committee. This station is placed under the charge of an Agronomist. There is a Basic Training School, a Central Co-operative Training Institute, a well-equipped hospital, a high school, a co-operative stores, a telegraph and post office and a club. There is a unit of Public Works Department and Public Health to look after the roads, buildings and sanitation. There are two rest houses of the Government of India one for senior officials and the other for subordinate staff. The Government of Bihar has an inspection bungalow. Recently Pusa has also become the seat of the Samastipur-Pusa-Sakra Block of the Community Project. An Agricultural School has also been started under national extension programme with one hundred students. Recently the Government of India have started a Regional Co-operative Institute which is functioning from October, 1954.

At one time there was a Technical School also at Pusa which offered facilities for training in indigenous industries like bell-metal works, carpentry, basket-making, *newar* and *dari*-making, etc. This school helped the unemployed persons to stand on their own legs and earn an independent livelihood. It was unfortunate that the school was closed down by the Government in 1942 when the school was looted in the political movement.

During the wartime a plant for the manufacture of flax was established at Pusa at an enormous cost for supplying raw materials for manufacture of parachute goods. The plant is still lying in a house specially built for the purpose.

Pusa covers an area of 1,358 acres of land of which about 900 acres are cultivable, the rest being occupied by roads and buildings. There are 14 first class European type bungalows and a number of set of residential quarters for the staff. It has got a Power House which supplies electricity to the Estate.

Pusa seems to have covered three villages, *viz*., Pusa Mohammadpur Deopar, Pusa Dopar and Warpur Pusa. They are extended over 3,855 square miles with a population* of 5,058 in 1951.

Rajnagar.—A village about 7 miles north of Madhubani in Madhubani subdivision brings nostalgic memories of the patronage of Darbhanga Raj and a waft of what might have been. Maharajadhiraj Sir Rameshwar Singh wanted to shift the headquarters of Raj Darbhanga from Darbhanga to Rajnagar and lavishly spent money in building palaces and temples and excavating or renovating tanks. Three large palaces and several delicately executed temples graced Rajnagar and attracted admiration till came the great

*District Census Handbook, Darbhanga (1951), p. 268.

Earthquake of 1934. The palaces were ruined almost beyond repairs and the temples were very badly damaged. After the Earthquake it was found that the main palace through the Durga hall and the roof over the inner shrines rendered into a mass of ruins and the very fine marble image of deity of Durga was broken into pieces. The Shiva temple built on South Indian model was also beyond repairs. The glorious Sun temple and the marble image of Kali, the temples of Ardhanarishwar and Raj Rajeshwar were also made irreparable. Maharajadhiraj Sir Rameshwar Singh's dream of making Rajnagar the seat of Darbhanga Raj and to bring about a cultural confluence particularly of the different creeds of Hinduism was shattered. It is a tragedy that the religious fervour of the Maharajadhiraj and the lavish spending of more than crores of rupees would come to this end.

The village has electricity since 1959. A railway station of the North-Eastern Railway serves the village. It has a public library, a post office, a Veterinary dispensary and a branch office of *Khadi* Board. There are schools of different status including a high school. The main cottage industry of the village is mat-making and handloom textiles. The village is also the centre of trade in *makhana* (water berries).

Rusera.—Rusera town in the Samastipur subdivision, situated on the east bank of the Burhi Gandak just below the confluence of that river with the Baghmati, in 25°45′ North and 86°2′ East. The total population of the town according to 1951 census was 12,067 whereas according to the provisional figures of 1961 census the population is 14,341, i.e., 7,385 males and 6,956 females. The following chart will show the variation of population in Rusera town from 1901 to 1961 :—

Year.	Persons.	Variation.
1901	10,246	..
1911	8,223	—2,022
1921	8,187	— 36
1931	8,869	+682
1941	10,154	+1,285
1951	12,067	+1,913
1961	14,341	+2,274

From the above census figures it appears that the population of the town is increasing rapidly since 1921 census.

The town is a place of great commerce and trade importance. Commodities like chillies, turmeric, sugarcane, *ghee*, paddy and maize, are exported from Rusera to Samastipur, places in West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, etc., by railway, road and boat. The town contains about 20 grain stockists, 30 wholesalers and about 50 retail sale dealers. The area grows a good quantity of chillies and tobacco.

The town is inhabited by Hindu and Mohammedan communities The main castes in the town are Brahmin, Rajput, Kayasth, Marwari, Gwala, Mohammedan and Harijan.

The incidence of education and literacy is fairly high. The people of Rusera town pay much attention to education. The town has a middle school, ten upper primary and two lower primary schools of municipality. Besides there are also 20 lower primary schools under the E. I. P. Scheme in the town. The total number of average boys and girls attending municipal schools is 1,684 and 486 respectively. There is also a higher secondary school and a college in the town.

So far as medical and public health is concerned, the town contains a Government dispensary, with an accommodation of 6 beds. Besides there are many allopathic, homoeopathic and *ayurvedic* private practitioners in the town. The municipality which was established in 1869 also maintains an Assistant Health Officer, a Sanitary Inspector, a Health Inspector and a Vaccinator for the sanitation of the town.

The Government also maintains a veterinary dispensary. There is no fire service maintained by the municipality. The town is electrified and there are about 10 flour mills in the town.

There is a post office, an inspection bungalow, a railway station, a block office, a police station and several other offices of Central and State Government.

Rayam.—A village in Sadar subdivision is situated at a distance of five miles from Keotiranway.

The village has a mixed population consisting of agriculturists, businessmen and service holders but the businessmen predominate.

There is a sugar factory and a post office in the village. There are lower and upper primary schools in this village.

The main production of the village are maize and sugarcane.

Sahpurpatori.—A large village in Samastipur subdivision which has a railway station of the same name. It is also a commercial centre and is in the midst of rich tobacco growing area. There was a tobacco factory which is now closed down. The other main crops are chillies, sugarcane and paddy.

There are lower, upper, middle and high schools and a college in the village.

Sakri.—A village-*cum*-town in Madhubani subdivision, situated at a distance of 13 miles from Darbhanga. There is a railway junction here of North-Eastern Railway.

According to the census of 1961 its total population is 5,830, i.e., 2,828 males and 3,002 females. It is under the jurisdiction of

Madhubani thana and has an area of 1,585 acres. It is under the jurisdiction of Pandaul *Anchal*.

The village has a mixed population consisting of agriculturists, businessmen and service holders. The main castes are Brahmans, Rajputs, Gwalas, Kayasthas, Mohammadans and Harijans.

The village has a branch office of State Bank of India, an electric power house, a tannery, a tile factory, a post office and a sugar mill.

There are lower, upper, middle and high schools in the village.

The village is electrified and it has a market. There is a statutory *Gram Panchayat* and a public library. There are about six temples and two mosques in the villages.

Samastipur subdivision.—The last District Gazetteer mentions:—

"Southern subdivision of the district, lying between 25°28' and 26°5' N. and 85°31' and 86°1' E., and extending over 778 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the Baghmati river, which separates it from the headquarters subdivision on the west by the Hajipur subdivision of Muzaffarpur, on the south by the Ganges, and on the east by the Begusarai subdivision of the Monghyr District. Physically, it resembles the subdivisions of Hajipur and Begusarai, the whole tract forming a rich alluvial country noted for the fertility of its soil and for the excellence of its *rabi* crops. The Ganges skirts the subdivision on the south for miles only; and the most important rivers traversing the subdivision are the Little or Burh Gandak, the Baya, and the Jhamwari and Balan, which are both offshoots of the Little Gandak. The Burh Gandak enters the subdivision from the west near Pusa, and then pursues a south-easterly course till it leaves the district near Rusera; throughout this portion of its course it makes a natural boundary, the uplands, which constitute the greater part of the subdivision, lying to the south and the marshy *doab* of Warisnagar to the north. The Baya flows through a portion of the Dalsingh Sarai thana and joins the Ganges below Dhanespur at the extreme south-east corner of the subdivision. The Jhamwari and the Balan are branches of the Burh Gandak, which they leave at Pusa, and after flowing through the south-west of Samastipur rejoin the parent stream in Monghyr.

"With the exception of part of the *doab* between the Baghmati and Little Gandak rivers, the subdivision consists of a large block of upland interspersed with a few *chaurs* or marshes. It is the richest and most fertile part of the district, producing all the most valuable *rabi* and *bhadoi* crops, and it is the centre of the indigo industry in the Darbhanga District. Vegetation is luxuriant, and mango groves and clusters of bamboos abound, giving a pleasing variety to the landscape. Its population rose from

738,449 in 1891 to 752,637 in 1901, when there were 967 persons to the square mile, the density of population being greater than in any other part of the district. It contains one town, Samastipur, its headquarters, and 843 villages. The subdivision was formerly known as the Tajpur subdivision, which was established in 1867; and it comprises the thanas of Samastipur (formerly Tajpur), Dalsingh Sarai and Warisnagar (formerly Nagarbasti), and the police outposts of Mohiuddinnagar and Tajpur."*

There have been fundamental changes in Samastipur subdivision since L. S. S. O' Malley's days.

The population of the subdivision according to the two last censuses are:—

Year.	Total Population.	Males.	Females.
1951	13,29,746	6,62,253	6,67,403
1961	15,69,356	7,71,413	7,97,943

The Subdivisional Officer is the head of the administration of the subdivision and he is directly under the administrative control of the District Magistrate. There are seven police stations, viz., Samastipur, Tajpur, Rusera, Singia, Dalsingsarai, Warisnagar and Mohiuddinagar.

The subdivision has fifteen blocks or *Anchals* which are situated at Samastipur, Ujiarpur, Hasanpur, Warishnagar, Patori, Bibhutpur, Tajpur, Sarairanjan, Pusa, Dalsingsarai, Kalyanpur, Singia, Kushoswarasthan and Rusera. Each *Anchal* has been placed under a gazetted officer who is called Block Development Officer or *Anchal Adhikari*. He is normally of the rank of Deputy Collector. An *Anchal Adhikari* or the Block Development Officer has to do all the revenue and development work of an *Anchal*. He is the head of his office and working under the Subdivisional Officer and the District Magistrate. He is the drawing and disbursing officer of funds for his *Anchal*. He is vested with the powers of a Second Class Magistrate to maintain law and order of his *Anchal* or Block.

The incidence of education and literacy is fairly high. The people of this subdivision pay much attention to education. There are 38 (in 1962) high schools including higher secondary and girls high schools and eight colleges in the subdivision.

There are two municipalities in this subdivision, one at Samastipur and another at Rusera. The details of these municipalities will be found in the chapter Local-Self Government.

*District Gazetteer, Darbhanga (1907), pp. 154-155.

The subdivision has a number of important places which have been separately described.

So far as trade is concerned this subdivision exports tobacco, turmeric, sugar and chillies to Patna and places in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Assam. It imports medicine, soap, kerosene oil, heavy machines, etc. The details will be found in chapter, Banking, Trade and Commerce.

Maithil Brahmans, Mohammadans and Gwalas predominate in this subdivision. The other castes are Rajputs, Kurmis, Kayasthas, Banias, Marwaris and Harijans.

The houses in this subdivision are generally mud-built and bamboo splits with tile and straw roofing. People have also started constructing *pucca* houses in villages as well.

So far as the agricultural production is concerned this subdivision is mainly a cash crop growing area such as chillies, sugarcane, tobacco and turmeric. The staple food is rice, *dal* and vegetables. *Pan-biri* and betel nut is very common among males and females both in this subdivision.

In this subdivision big *melas* are held at Kusheswarasthan, Vidyapatinagar, Rusera, etc. which are visited by more than 10,000, persons.

Samastipur Town.—Samastipur is the headquarters of the subdivision of the same name. The total population of the town according to 1951* census was 19,366 persons whereas according to the provisional figures of 1961* census the population is 25,736, i. e., 15,292 males and 10,444 females. The following chart will show the variation of population in Samastipur town from 1901 to 1961:—

Year.	Persons.	Variation.
1901	9,101	..
1911	9,168	+67
1921	8,017	-1,151
1931	9,891	+1,847
1941	13,293	+3,402
1951	19,366	+6,073
1961	25,736	+6,370

From the census figures it appears that the population of the town is increasing rapidly.

* Provisional figures for 1961 census were obtained from the Darbhanga Collectorate.

Regarding Samastipur town L. S. S. O'Malley in the last District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907) mentions that "Headquarters town of the subdivision of the same name, situated on the south bank of the little Gandak river in 25°52′ N. and 85° 48′ E. Population (1901) 9,101. Samastipur is an important junction on the Bengal North Western-Railway, and is the site of railway workshops which employ 1,000 hands. The town extends a short distance along the river bank, and is a large commercial centre, a considerable trade being carried on in rice, oil-seeds, pulses, saltpetre and piece goods. It was constituted a municipality in 1897 and the area within municipal limits is 1.75 square miles. The town contains the usual public offices, and a sub-jail with accommodation for 23 prisoners".*

There have been fundamental changes in Samastipur since L. S. S. O'Malley's days. It has expanded enormously and is now an important town in the district of Darbhanga.

The town is a place of commercial and trade importance. Commodities like sugar, tobacco, chillies, paddy, mangoes and *lichies* are exported from Samastipur to Calcutta, Patna, Kanpur and places in Assam, etc. During 1960-61 about 14,950 quintals per month of goods such as chillies, sugar, paddy, tobacco, etc., were exported and about 41,250 quintals per month of goods such as cloth, medicine, soap, shoes, kerosene oil, etc., were imported from Calcutta, Kanpur, Patna, etc., by the railway. The average earning per month from goods traffic in 1960-61 was Rs. 1,12,928 from Samastipur railway station. So far as the traffic from Samastipur station is concerned about 1,49,846 persons per month visited and went outside the town in 1960-61 and the average earning from passenger traffic was Rs. 1,60,479. The town contains about 35 grain stockists, 50 wholesalers and about 90 retail sale dealers. The area grows a good quantity of chillies, tobacco and sugarcane. The sugarcane is generally supplied to Samastipur sugar factory which is situated in the heart of the town. This town has a big market for tobacco, chillies and sugar. A detailed description regarding trade and commerce will be found in the chapter Banking, Trade and Commerce.

The civic affairs of the town are managed by a municipality established in 1897. The municipality is divided into 6 wards. A detailed description of the municipality will be found in chapter Local-Self Government.

The town is at the junction of several roads, Samastipur-Darbhanga, Samastipur-Muzaffarpur, Samastipur-Sahpurpatori, etc. These roads connect Samastipur to Jaynagar, Pahlezaghat, Chapra, Muzaffarpur etc. Buses and trucks ply on these distant places with passengers and commodities. Samastipur town registers an outflow of about 800 persons by buses to a number of places like Madhubani,

*District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907), p. 155.

Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Hajipur and almost the same number of persons come to Samastipur from different places.

The town is inhabited by Hindu and Mohammadan communities. Mohammadans, Brahmans and Gwalas hold the largest majority in the town. The business class people such as Banias and Marwaris are also in large number in the town.

The incidence of education and literacy is fairly high. The people of Samastipur town pay much attention to education. The town has two degree colleges, one for boys with about 2,000 students and one for girls with about 800 students. Besides there are three high schools, 3 middle, 9 lower and upper primary schools. There is co-education in lower and upper primary schools.

Regarding accommodation for the visitors it may be mentioned that there is an inspection and dak bungalow of the District Board and two *Dharmshalas*.

So far as medical and public health is concerned the town contains a subdivisional hospital and a railway hospital. Besides there are about 10 allopathic, 12 homoeopathic and six *ayurvedic* private practitioners in the town. There is no sewerage system within the town and due to this there is a general lack of sense of sanitation. The Government also maintains a veterinary dispensary in the town. There is no fire service maintained by the municipality. There is a fire service of the railway but it is meant for the railway fire accidents.

The town is electrified and there are two cinema houses in the town. It was observed by the investigator that the town people are cinema-minded. The students are the best patrons of the cinema houses.

The town is important from the administrative point of view. Besides being the subdivisional headquarters of the subdivision it has a large number of offices of both Central and State Governments. Some of these Central Government departments are Post and Telegraph Office, District Traffic Superintendent of North Eastern Railway's Office, the branch office of the State Bank of India and Life Insurance Corporation of India. Some of the State Offices are those of Subdivisional Officer, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Subdivisional Officer, Education and *Anchal* Office.

Sankarpur Gandhwar.—The village is situated at a distance of 10 miles east of Madhubani. It is under the jurisdiction of Madhubani subdivision, Madhubani Block and Madhubani police station. The area of the village is 92 acres.

The last District Gazetteer (1907) by L. S. S. O' Malley mentioned it as Basdeopur but this name is not at all mentioned in the official records of the recent censuses. The present Government records show it as Sankarpur Gandhwar.

According to the census of 1951 its total population was 207, i. e., 100 males and 107 females. But according to the census of 1961, Sankarpur and Gandhwar have been separately enumerated. The total population of Sankarpur is 480, i. e., 236 males and 244 females and the total population of Gandhwar is 1,997, i. e., 985 males and 1,012 females.

Regarding this village, traditional explanation is as follows:

There were two brothers, one called Gandh, the other Bhaur both were exceedingly powerful. Though nominally subject to the Raja of Tirhut, each acquired a large territory the lands owned by Gandh lying to the east of the Tiljuga and those owned by Bhaur to the south of the Karai. The Raja tried hard to get rid of them but was unsuccessful, until he induced two strangers to kill them. The strangers, after killing them, obtained their estates, the slayer of Gandh and his descendants thus acquiring the name of Gandhmariya and the family of the slayer of Bhaur the name of *Bhaursoriya*. The latter lived at Singia and the former at Sankarpur, which then became Sankarpur-Gandhwar and was ultimately annexed to the Darbhanga Raj. When Maharaja Chhatar Singh of Darbhanga married, this village was given to his wife as a dowry; and she in her turn gave it to her second son Basdoo Singh. On the death of Chhatar Singh in 1839, his eldest son, Rudar Singh succeeded to the Raj and *Pargana* Jarail was made over to Basdeo Singh for his maintenance; but as he claimed half of the Raj and contested Rudar Singh's right, he refused to compromise himself by accepting Jarail and retired to Sankarpur Gandhwar his mother's gift. Here he erected temples and dug several tanks. The villagers began to call it Basdeopur after him.

The village has a mixed population of Maithil Brahmans, Rajputs, Harijans, etc. There is a statutory Gram Panchayat at Gandhwar. It has a lower and an upper primary schools. The main occupation of the villagers is cultivation.

The main crops of the village are sugarcane, paddy, *bajra* and maize.

Sarai-Ranjan.—This village in Samastipur subdivision is the headquarters of a Community Development Block of the same name. It is under the jurisdiction of Samastipur police-station and has an area of 1,984 acres.

According to the census of 1951 its total population was 4,265, i. e., 2,327 males and 1,938 females with 928 occupied houses.

There are lower, upper and middle schools in the village. There is a statutory Gram-panchayat in the village.

The village Sirsopahi is situated at a distance of 18 miles to the north-east of Darbhanga. The nearest railway station is Manigachi on the Darbhanga-Nirmali rail route of the North-Eastern Railway. The village is about 4 miles from the station. A *pucca* road runs from Darbhanga *via* Sakri through this village.

Origin of the name of the village.--There is a story about the name of the village. It is said that during the reign of Maharaja Harsimhadeva (14th centruy A. D.), the system of genealogical table was revised and there is reference of Sarisabai Chhajan, etc. It means that a person belonging to Sarisab had become the inhabitant of village Chhajan. In '*Skanda Purana*' and *Brahmanda Purana*' this area is known as '*Siddhartha Kshetra*'. There is the temple of Siddheshwari and Mahadeva in this village. According to tradition both of these temples were established by Balbhadra, elder brother of Lord Krishna. In the works of Bhatta Kumar Mishra of village Bhattoura (about 1½ miles south-west of Sarsopahi) there is reference of this village. Kumaril Mishra was contemporary of Mandan Mishra (about 900 A. D). In '*Vringaduta*', a Sanskrit *Kavya* composed by a Bengali poet some 500 years back there is the reference of this village. The village Sarso has emerged out of three names, Sirisabai Khangur, Sarisabai Chhajan and Sodarpriay Sarisab. The present name of the village is Sarsopahi. *Pahi* indicates some distance from the central place. Some *tolas* emerged in due course near the village. At present there are four *tolas*, namely, Pahi *tola*, Nav *tola*, Bittho *tola* and Sirisab *tola*. Later on the importance of these *tolas* increased due to the birth of Sachal Mishra and Mohan Mishra who were related to Raj Darbhanga family.

The District Census Handbook of Darbhanga (1951), published in 1955, p. 232, mentions that the total area of the village is 1,899 acres with 1,272 number of occupied houses, a total population of 6,411 persons, i e., 3,384 males and 3,027 females, and 777 males and 247 females literate.

There are about 30 tanks in the village same as in village Saurath These tanks are mainly for irrigation, fishery (for personal use only), bathing and growing of *makhana*.

Contribution--Near about the 15th century A. D. Pandit Ajachi Bhavanath Mishra belonged to this village His most important work is '*Naivireka*' His son Shri Pandit Shankar Mishra was a great scholar. It is said that while he was five years of age, he used to compose *slokas* in Sanskrit. His works are *Gouridigambar Prahasan*, *Krishna Vinod Natak*, *Manobhava Natak*, *Vadi Vinod*, *Rasarnava* and commentaries on *Kusumanjali*, *Khandankhadya* and *Vaisheshik Sutra*.

Shri Pandit Pakshadhar Mishra was another great scholar of *Nayaya Shastra.* There is a *Shloka* in Sanskrit regarding Pakshadhar Mihsra which goes as follows:—

"*Shankar Vachaspatyau Shankar Vachaspateh Sadrisau, Pakshadhar Pratipakshi lakshibhuto na drishyate kvapi.*" It means that Shankar and Vachaspati are equal to Devaguru Brihaspati and God Shiva but there is no one in the world who can claim to be equal to Pakshadhar. His works are *Chintamani Aloku, Tithi Chandrika, Chandraloka, Prasanna Raghava,* etc. His disciple was the great Raghunath, the famous Bengali Pandit who founded the school of *Nyaya* at Nadia (Bengal).

In the present century the descendants of this very family have occupied position of trust and responsibility.

Another important family of this very village was of Sri Sachal Mishra who was a scholar of great repute. He obtained a *jagir* from Peshwa Baji Rao in village Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) during the first half of the 18th century. His most famous work is '*Arva Shaptashati*'. His brother Mohan Mishra was a scholar of great repute.

In the present century scholars like late Dr. Sir Ganganath Jha, late Dr. Amarnath Jha, Sri Adityanath Jha, Ex-Vice-Chancellor of the Sanskrit University, Varanasi, the late Sri Vivuthinath Jha, I. A. S., belonged to this village. Late Mahamahopadhyaya Pandit Balkrishna Mishra, late Pandit Jivachh Mishra (author of *Rameshwar*, a novel in Maithili), late Mahapandit Markandey Mishra (Ex-Principal, Government Sanskrit College, Udaipur, Rajasthan and a reputed scholar of *Nayaya* School of Philosophy) and late Pandit Harinandan Jha who was a famous Ayurvedacharya of the State of Bihar, Kavishekhar Badrinath Jha, author of *Radha Parinai Sanskrit Mahakavya, Ekavali Parinai, Maithili Mahakavya,* are of this village.

There are near about twenty-two temples in the village. The most important temples are of Bhagwan Sri Ramachandra, Siddheshwar Mahadeva and Siddheshwari (Bhagwati), etc.

Industries.—The village is electrified but very few of the villagers have taken the advantage of it. The cottage industries include weaving, metal wares, ironsmithy, goldsmithy and making of lac bangles. The village has excellent bamboo products and fans from palm-leaves.

There is only one *hat* which is organised at *Pahitola* on every Monday and Thursday. There are small markets at Sarisab, *Pahitola* and Nav *tola*. There are three Government Fair Price shops also.

The village Panchayat is quite active and the incidence of crime is very low.

There are a number of educational institutions including a degree college and a high school besides two upper primary schools for boys and one lower primary school for girls.

There is only one public library which is named after late Dr. Ganganath Jha, i. e., Ganganath Vachanalaya and it contains about 4,000 books on different subjects. Apart from this school and college libraries contain 5,000 and 2,100 books respectively.

There are six cultural institutions, namely, Biseshwar Kala Niketan (for fine arts established in the year 1958), Mithila Natya Kala Parishad (for dance and drama established in the year 1959), Bibbhutinath Manoranjan Kendra (for indoor and outdoor games established in the year 1960), Amarnath Literary Club (for English debates established in the year 1961) and the Vidyapati Goshthi. There are also two *Kirtan Mandalis*.

The ladies of this village are noted for their love for music, songs and painting. Their *aripana*-work is particularly exquisite.

The many motifs and designs that are prevalent in this area are being edited by a local author.

Saurath.—This is a roadside village on the Darbhanga-Jaynagar road *via* Madhubani at a distance of 18 miles north of Darbhanga town. The original name of the village mentioned in "Tithi Nirnaya" by Mahamahopadhyaya Rajnath Mishra *alias* Rajey Mishra, is "Saurashthra". Another name of the village is in 'Mithila Cha-Adarsh" by late Pandit Mukti Nath Jha of village Bhachhi, P. O. Madhubani, Darbhanga, on page 25. There is a verse in Sanskrit taken from "Amarkosha" which goes as follows—

> "*Shobhanamrashtrama Surashtram Nirmiyato Yatastyau Rashtram 'Shesha' iti Lakshanasutrena Pratyayechadi Vridhautatasiddhih Mandirechtharashtroastrivishayesyadupadruve*" "*It yamarah*".

It means that this beautiful place known as Saurashtra should be called Saurath and that from this very place all the other countries have been built with the help of *Yajna* and that very country is known as Bharatvarsha. The name "Saurashtra" is analogous to "Saurashtra" near Gujerat State. There is a temple at Saurath in this district known as Somnath Mahadeva. This is also analogous to Somnath temple in Saurashtra in Gujerat. It is said that during the Muslim invasion priests of Somnath left Saurashtra with the *Shivalingam* and came to Saurath in Darbhanga district. This village Saurashtra or Saurath was full of forests and marshy land at that time and river Kosi was flowing on the

eastern side. Since then this place is known as Saurath or Saurashtra. The story of the origin cannot be verified but the parallel names are very suggestive.

General boundaries.--The general boundaries are the village Kanail and river Jibachh on the east, mouza Pokhrauni and Public Works Department road from Darbhanga to Jainagar on the west, mouza Kapsia on the north and mouza Jagatpur on the south. According to the District Census Handbook of Darbhanga (1951), published in 1955, p. 228, the total area of the village is 1,253 acres, number of houses 932, total population 2,505, i.e., 1,291 males and 1,214 females and literates 366 males and 114 females. According to the Gramsevak's report, the total population according to the census of 1961, is 3,198, i.e., 1,612 males and 1,568 females, total area 1,252.86, number of houses 1,130 and the figures for the literate persons were not available.

Topography.—About a thousand years back the river Kosi used to flow to the eastern side very close to this village. It changed its course since the establishment of the village and the temple of Somnath. When the river Kosi was flowing close to this village, it could not escape the devastation of the river but now the flood, etc., having stopped river Jivachh flows to the south of village Kanail, a neighbouring village of Saurath. Regarding the river Kamla there is a story of the division of the village between two brothers Ganga Jha and Bhagirath Jha who were the rightful claimants of the village. Both the brothers decided to make a partition of the village. Ganga Jha prayed to river Kamala and because of his devotion the river began to flow through this village. Ganga Jha lived on the eastern bank of the river and Bhagirath Jha on the western bank. This story is proved to be true from Survey map of village Saurath where it is mentioned Saurath Ganga and Saurath-Bhagirath. The river is now dead and the river bed has turned to be habitable. A *katcha* road which runs through the village, has been constructed on the bed of the river. There is only one lake in the village known as Chitaha. This lake is really a portion of the river Kamala.

Tanks.—At present there are 22 tanks in the village. The most famous is Sabha Gachhi tank. This tank was built about 200years back by the forefathers of the present Maharaja of Darbhanga. Every year a Maithil Brahmana Sabha is arranged during the month of marriage season or *lagna.*

One peculiarity is to be observed regarding these tanks. There is a pillar either of wood or plastered in the middle of the tanks. The investigator was told that these pillars prove that the water of the tank is sacred. The water becomes sacred only when a *Yajna* is performed for the tank. The tanks which do not bear

* Provisional figures for 1961 census were obtained from the Darbhanga Collectorate.

the pillars in the centre prove that the water is not sacred and it cannot be used for any religious or ceremonial purposes.

Earthquake.—During the earthquake of Bihar in 1934, this village could not escape its disastrous effect. At several places deep fissures and cracks were seen. Water, sand, etc., came out of the earth. Several of the houses were damaged.

Language.—This is purely a Maithil village and the language is Maithili. The prevalent scripts are Devanagari and Mithilakshara. Mithilakshara is now not in vogue rather it has been replaced by Devanagari script but the dialect and language is Maithili. Though Nagari script has replaced the Mithilakshara, still the villagers can very well read and write Mithilakshara.

Castes.—The table below shows the number of castes with approximate number of houses :—

Castes.	Houses.
Brahmans	450
Dhanuk	250
Amat	200
Kewat (Kurmi)	150
Mallah	50
Dusadh	50
Rabidas	20
Toli	20
B[illegible]i	20
Musahar	20
Total	1,230

The villagers are broadly divided into two classes, the middle and the labourer classes. The middle class is mostly from Brahmans, Tolis and Kewats and the other communities are either agricultural labourers or caste professionals.

The religious beliefs are those common to the Maithils of the district described elsewhere.

Besides the worship of the gods of the Hindu pantheon, the Dusadhs perform their indigenous *puja* known as '*Salhesa puja*' during every festival and among the Musahars '*Goriya puja*' is prevalent. The Chamars perform the Rabidas *puja*.

Due to a sense of superior aristocracy of caste of the Maithils, there appears to be some rigidity in caste-relations and the temples are hardly resorted to by the lower-caste men.

The village has got the facilities of electricity but very few villagers have taken advantage of it. There is a flour mill in the village. There are fifteen tube-wells and fifty wells in the village. There is also a Multi-purpose Co-operative Bank. There is no *hat* in the village but the neighbouring *hats* at Rohika ($1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of the present village) and another one known as Loha *hat* serve the villagers.

There is a Government Sanskrit High School, an Upper Primary School for boys and a Lower Primary Girls' School. There are two libraries known as Vidyapati Library and Krishna Library. The Vidyapati Library established in the year 1938 has 2,000 books and 100 members. The Krishna Library established in the year 1940 has 1,500 books and 100 members.

There are three *kirtan* Mandalis, three *Akharas* and one Nautanki party in the village.

The village is the site of a large mela (Sabha Gachhi *mela*) or religious gathering, which takes place annually during the marriage *lagna*, when thousands of Maithil Brahmans of all over India assemble to settle their children's marriage. This is a unique institution sanctified by tradition which still has a tremendous hold on the Maithil Brahmans.

Saurath contains two large mounds, with ruins scattered for about a mile round, which the villagers believe to be the remains of an ancient city. Mr. Garrick of the Archaeological Survey of India considered this belief well founded; and on making some small excavations in one of the mounds. unearthed some ancient bricks and a number of clay balls with holes through the centre, which in his opinion, may have been used no excavation has been done in these mounds and it is expected that if excavations are made, some substantial materials may be found.

Singhwara.—This village in Sadar subdivision is the headquarters of the Community Development Block of the same name. It is under the jurisdiction of Darbhanga Sadar police station and has an area of 2,003 acres.

According to the census of 1951 its total population was 5,219, i.e., 2,414 males and 2,805 females with 408 occupied houses.

There are Lower Primary and Upper Primary Schools and a Post Office.

Silanath.—Regarding Silanath, the last District Gazetteer by L. S. S. O'Malley (1907) mentions that "A village in the Madhubani subdivision, situated on the banks of the Kamala, close to Jaynagar. Here every March or April a fair is held for about 15 days, attended by 15,000 people, principally from the *Tarai*. The fair, doubtless, had its origin in large bodies of pilgrims coming to visit a temple of Mahadeo, which stood here; but the river Kamala has changed its course and washed the temple away, and now no trace of it remains."* There have been great changes since the time of L. S. S. O'Malley. A new temple of Mahadeo has been built and named after that temple which has been washed away by the river.

The total population according to the provisional figures of 1961 census† is 783, i.e., 421 males and 362 females.

The village is under the jurisdiction of Jainagar police station and the Jaynagar Block.

The village has a mixed population consisting of agriculturists, businessmen and service holders, but the agriculturists predominate. The main castes are Rajputs and Brahmans.

There is only one lower primary school in the village in which both girls and boys read. There is a library in the village. Although a small village the people patronise the library and are fond of *kirtans*.

Singia.—Regarding Singia L. S. S. O'Malley mentions as follows in the last District Gazetteer :—

"A village in Samastipur subdivision, situated about 20 miles north-east of Rusera and 2 miles north of the Karai river. Two miles to the south of the river is an old fort known as Mangaigarh or Mangal's fort. This is a large enclosure about 1½ miles in circumference, surrounded by what are now mud walls, 30 or 40 feet high, and by a deep ditch. The interior is under cultivation; but the ground is strewn with large bricks, varying from 1¼ to 2 feet in length, showing that there must have been considerable buildings inside. Little is known about the history of this fort, but there is a tradition that Raja Bal, whose stronghold has already been mentioned (*see* Balrajpur), attacked it and destroyed Raja Mangal after having blown down the gates."** There was an indigo factory at Mangalgarh before.

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*District Gazetteer of Darbhanga (1907), page. 156.

***Ibid*, page 156.

†Provisional figures for 1961 Census were obtained from Darbhanga Collectorate.

The village is under the jurisdiction of Singia police station and block office and has an area of 4,454 acres.

According to the census of 1951 its total population was 8,864, i.e., 4,502 males and 4,362 females with 1,161 occupied houses. The total number of literate persons was 646, i.e., 547 males and 99 females.

The village has a mixed population consisting of agriculturists, businessmen and service holders, but the agriculturists predominate. The main castes are Brahmans, Rajputs, Banias, Marwaris, Mohammadans and Harijans.

The village has a post office, a Government dispensary, a Lower Primary School, an Upper Primary School, a Middle School, a Sanskrit *Pathshala*, a High School and a Library. The Library gets aid from Bihar Government. There are about 4,000 books on different subjects in the library.

The main crops of the village are paddy, tobacco, chillies, turmeric and maize. Chillies, tobacco and turmeric are generally exported to Kanpur, Patna, Calcutta and places in Uttar Pradesh, etc.

There is a statutory *Gram Panchayat* in the village. There are about ten temples and four mosques in the village.

Tajpur.—A village in the Samastipur subdivision of Darbhanga district is situated at a distance of six miles from Samastipur. A metalled road runs from Samastipur to Pusa *via* Tajpur. It was formerly the headquarters of the present Samastipur subdivision and had the subdivisional offices and the Munsif courts.

According to the census of 1951 it has been mentioned as Kesho Tajpur and its total population was 2,309, i.e., 1,181 males and 1,128 females. It is under the jurisdiction of Tajpur police station and Tajpur Block and has an area of 48 acres.

The village has a mixed population consisting of agriculturists, businessmen and service holders. The main castes are Brahmans, Rajputs, Kayastha, Mohammadans, Gwalas and Harijans.

The village has a Post Office, a Government dispensary, a Lower and an Upper Primary School, a Middle School and a High School, an Inspection Bungalow and a Library.

The village has a market with a variety of shops. The village is electrified. There are about eight flour mills in the village. The village is on the way of becoming a township.

The main crops of this village are turmeric, tobacco, chillies paddy, maize and sugarcane. Sugarcane is generally sent to sugar factory, Samastipur and tobacco and chillies are exported to Patna, Calcutta, places in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, etc.

Uchaitha.—This village is situated at a distance of 32 miles north-west of Darbhanga town. The means of communication is not so good during the rainy season. Up to Benipatti one can go even during rains but the three miles from the main road becomes impassable during rains. It is under the jurisdiction of Benipatti police-station and its thana number is 89. Its name is mentioned in the Census report of 1951 as Uchaith.* The total area of the village is 492 acres with 111 number of occupied houses, a total population of 672 souls, i.e., 320 males and 352 females and 38 males literate.**

There is a temple situated on the edge of a tank and it is said that the immortal poet Kalidasa had worshipped the Goddess here. There is, however, no evidence yet to associate Kalidasa with this place. The tank is a small reservoir with flights of steps to reach the water. The temple appears to be a recent structure. There is an image of a Goddess. A lotus flower can be seen on the back of a lion and the goddess is sitting on it. She has four arms and the head is missing. The image is said to have been desecrated. Some small images are lying near the main image. They are of black stone.

It is said that the late Maharajadhiraja Sir Rameshwar Singh of Darbhanga had expressed his desire to reinstate the head of the image. Accordingly an order was placed and the head was carved out. Before installation one day he saw in the dream that the Goddess was telling him : 'I have been creating so many heads in the creation. Do you think that it is proper for you to create my head ?' The Maharajadhiraja was upset. The Mahantha near Uchaitha had the same dream and both of them were thinking independently whether the head should be installed or not. At last it was decided to leave the image as it was. The priest took the head from the Maharajadhiraja and kept it near the image to offer it usual offerings.

A few yards towards the east of the temple near the south-east corner of the tank, a few years ago, the tank was cleaned and near the place a number of images were found inside it. One of them was complete and beautiful. All of them were removed to the Patna Museum. The site is very old and an excavation may yield good results.

Just below the temple flows the river Kamla. Here it is about a hundred and fifty feet wide and about twenty feet deep. During

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* District Census Handbook of Darbhanga (1951), published in 1955, page 210.

** *Ibid.*, page 210.

the rains it swells up and flows in swirling current. But at other times it is almost dry.

Just on the other side of the river towards the south-east of the temple is the site of what is believed to be the *Pathashala* of Kalidasa. In local dialect and survey records it is called '*Kalidasak Chaupadi*', i.e., the College of Kalidasa. '*Chaupadi*' is the modified prakrita form of the Sanskrit word '*Chatuspathi*', i.e., where the four Vedas are read and taught. It is an elevated piece of ground measuring about one *bigha* in area.

People of this locality from far and near take earth to erect *Pindi* in their houses and particularly on the occasion of the ceremony of sacred thread of their sons. Some earth of that place is preserved at the 'Mithila Institute of Post-graduate Studies and Research in Sanskrit Learning, Darbhanga'.

Ujiarpur.—A small village very close to Samastipur town is the headquarters of a Community Development Block of the same name. The village has a large water-logged area for months which used to attract game birds. There is a railway station of the same name.

Umgaon.—This village under Harlakhi police-station in Madhubani subdivision is the headquarters of a Community Development Block of the same name. The nearest railway station Jainagar is at a distance of 14 miles.

According to the census of 1951 its total population was 1,584 persons, i.e., 804 males and 780 females with 219 occupied houses. There are a number of schools including a high school.

Vidyapatinagar.—The original name of this place was Sahit. It is under the jurisdiction of Dalsinghsarai P.-S. of Samastipur subdivision. It is close to Bazidpur railway station of N.-E. Railway now named as Vidyapatinagar. Vidyapati, the great Maithili poet, was a great devotee of Lord Shiva. He was an inhabitant of village Bisfi near the village Saurath in Madhubani subdivision. In his old age when he felt that his end was near, he longed to die on the bank of the Ganga and accordingly he proceeded towards it. When he reached village Sahit he felt his strength failing. He enquired of the people of the village about the distance of the river and he was told that there were still three *Koses* (6 miles) to go. The legend has it that he said "I have come such a long distance to meet the Ganga. Will not mother Ganga take the trouble to meet me here ?" In response to this the Ganga came by and he died.

It has become a place of pilgrimage for the people. A Shiva Mandir was erected at this place and fairs are held here on (1) *Magh Basant Panchami*, (2) *Phalgun Shivaratri*, (3) *Bhado Chaturdashi* and (4) on every Sunday. The most important of these fairs is the one that is held on the occasion of *Magh*

Basant Panchami and lasts till *Purnamashi* of that month. It is stated that lakhs of people congregate in this mela and *brisk* trade is carried on in it.

Warisnagar.—A large village in Samastipur subdivision is the headquarters of a Community Development Block of the same name. It has a police-station and a post office. The nearest railway station Kishanpur is at a distance of four miles.

The village has a lower, an upper and a middle school and a high school and a statutory *Gram Panchayat*. There is a good market with a number of shops of different types.

PHULHER.

A village in Madhubani subdivision situated about 4 miles south from Harlakhi. Harlakhi is the headquarters of a block office and a police-station. It is at a distance of about 40 miles north-west from Darbhanga railway station of North Eastern Railway. The communication is not so good. Passenger buses ply from Laheriasarai to Harlakhi *via* Benipatti. There is also another Pupri-Harlakhi Road which passes through the north side of the village. Janakpur is at a distance of 10 miles north from this village.

The name of the village is derived from *Phul-Lorhan* (plucking flowers). Phulher is the corrupt name of *Phul-Lorhan.*

There is a Girija temple and a big tank in the village. It is said that Sita, the daughter of Raja Janaka visited this temple daily with her *Sakhi* (companion) as a routine to have her bath and then weave garlands of flowers plucked in the garden. Then she would worship the Girija deity and garland her.

It is also mentioned in the *Balkanda* of the Ramayan that one day when Sita had come to the temple with a basket of flowers to worship the goddess, Sri Ram Chandra and Lakshman were also gathering flowers. The eyes of Sita and Ram met and both felt a great joy. This was the first meeting of the two. The *ashram* of Visvamitra where Ram and Lakshman were under training is at Besaul about 3 miles away.

On the right side of the temple of goddess Girija there is a temple of Bhairav. There is a big tank on the right side of the Girija temple. This is the tank where according to the legend Sita took her bath daily before worshipping the goddess Girija in the temple just on the bank of the tank.

The priests of the temple are Vaishnavas. This temple is claimed to be their ancestral property. About 100 visitors daily come here to offer prayer. Visitors generally bring sweets, fruits and garlands to offer to the deity. The priest marks the forehead of the devotees with *Bhabhuti* (ashes). The devotees also give money to the priest as *Dakshina.*

The month of *Phalgun* is specially observed very religiously by the devotees of Ram-Sita cult. As mentioned before there is a

string of temples of Ram-Sita cult in the neighbourhood. In *Phalgun* month the devotees undertake *Panch Kosi Yatra* and walk ten miles visiting the Ram-Sita temples at Janakpur, Ahalyaasthan, Durgaasthan, Kapileshwarasthan, Besaul, Phulher etc. The Girija temple at Phulher is visited by about one thousand persons daily throughout the days of *Phalgun* month. This very fact shows the great impact of Ram-Sita cult on the people of the locality. One thing is peculiar—the devotees all worship Sita as mother although they fondly refer her as a daughter (*maiyah*) and narrate about her troubles and triumphs in a very proud manner. Sri Ram Chandra is fondly referred as the Lord and Master of the Universe but also as the son-in-law of the area.

So far as facilities for visitors are concerned, there are no *Dharamshalas* or rest sheds near the temple and in the village. No one has thought of building them although the temple is located so far. Visitors generally stay under trees and in huts of the *Pandas* who charge money for offering shelter. It is not difficult to imagine the trouble of the pilgrims and visitors. It may be mentioned that quite a good percentage of the pilgrims is from Nepal side.

According to the census of 1951 the total population of the village was 1,708, i.e., 815 males and 893 females. The area of the village is 1,000 acres. It is mostly populated by Brahmans, Goalas, Chamars, Musahars etc.

The village has two primary schools and a library. It is not electrified.

HISAR

A village in Mudhubani subdivision is at a distance of 8 miles north from Benipatti. An unmetalled Benipatti-Harlakhi Road passes through this village. It is usually at Hisar that the people get down from buses or bullock carts and walk to Phulher village where there is a famous Girija temple. There is only a pathway to Phulher which is at a distance of 3 miles north-west. Hisar is under the jurisdiction of Harlakhi Police-station.

According to the census of 1951 its total population is 2,940 persons, i.e., 1,427 males and 1,513 females. The total number of literate persons is 293 (266 males and 27 females). The area of the village is 1,871 acres.

The main population consists of Brahman, Rajputs, Kayasthas, Goalas and Chamars.

The houses of the village are mostly mud-built and thatched. There are also few brick-built houses. The brick-built houses belong to big cultivators or Government servants. The mud-built houses with tile roofing belong to small cultivators and thatched houses belong to landless and poorer section.

This village has a lower primary school, a middle school and a Sanskrit *Pathshala*.

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APPENDIX

Extract on Indigo Industry from the "District Gazetteer of Darbhanga" (1907) by L. S. S. O' Malley, from pages 97—108.

THE INDIGO INDUSTRY

Progress of the Industry.—Indigo was a product of North Bihar long before the advent of the British, but its cultivation by European methods appears to have been started by Francois Grand, the first Collector of Tirhut. Writing in 1785 three years after his appointment as Collector, he claims to have been the pioneer of the industry, and says—"I introduced the manufacturing of indigo after the European manner, encouraged the establishment of indigo works and plantations and erected three at my own expense." It is at least from this time that the manufacture of indigo began to develop into an industry, and to attract European enterprise ; and by the end of the 18th century the present concerns of Dalsing Sarai, Jitwarpur, Tiwara and Kamtaul had been founded. In 1788 there were 5 Europeans in possession of Indigo works in Tirhut ; in 1793 the number of factories had increased to nine ; and by 1803 altogether 25 factories had been established. During these early days, the industry was directly fostered by the East India Company, and special permission had to be obtained by Europeans wishing to engage in it. In 1802, however, the Board of Directors passed orders that no further advances or other pecuniary encouragement should be given to the planters, as the large profits obtained from the sale of the product made such aid unnecessary. Indigo accordingly became an independent and self-supporting industry, the pioneer planting industry in Bengal.

Its progress during the next few years was rapid, though there appear to have been many failures, probably owing to overproduction. In a report submitted in 1810 the Collector of Tirhut stated that, taking one year with another, the district seldom sent less than 10,000 maunds of indigo to Calcutta for export to Europe, that 30,000 to 50,000 souls received their principal support from the factories, and that on the average each factory disbursed from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 30,000 per annum in hard cash to the labourers and cultivators for some miles round. He estimated that in this way not less than six or seven lakhs of rupees were circulated every year by the planters in Tirhut, and urged that the advantages of the industry to the labouring classes were so great that Government should encourage it in every possible way. "Let the speculator win or lose", he wrote, "acquire a princely fortune or die a pauper, the district is equally benefited by his industry, and his struggles for prosperity do rarely succeed. Some of the planters succeed, but the majority of them fail", Difficulties appear to have arisen later through the competition of rival concerns, and in 1828

the Collector represented that indigo cultivation had extended so greatly that some restriction on it was desirable for the benefit of the district. "From the misunderstanding" he wrote, "which has prevailed and still prevails amongst the European planters, disputes with one another are of very frequent occurrence ; disputes have, however, of late occurred through descendants of Europeans embarking in indigo cultivation, chiefly, if not entirely, by native agency. For the peace of the district and welfare of the established planters, it therefore appears highly desirable that the Government restrictions regarding the erection of factories by Europeans should be extended to the descendants of Europeans, and power be vested in the Magistrate to prevent engagements for the cultivation of indigo plant by other than the proprietor or proprietors of one established factory ".

In 1850 there were no less than 86 factories in Tirhut, several of which were used for the manufacture of sugar, but about this time sugar was finally superseded by indigo as the European industry of the district, and many refineries were converted into indigo concerns. By 1874 there were altogether 126 factories and outworks engaged in the production of indigo, and the area under cultivation was nearly 100,000 acres. At this time, Darbhanga contained the largest concern in India, Pandaul, which with its outworks comprised an area of 300 square miles ; it was subsequently split up, the northern outworks being purchased by the Maharaja of Darbhanga, who abandoned the cultivation of indigo in them a few years ago. Difficulties were now threatened by the feeling of tension between the ryots and the factories produced by certain abuses which had crept into the system of cultivation. A report submitted to Government by the Commissioner of Patna in 1877 showed that the system prevailing involved an amount of lawlessness and oppression, principally in the shape of extorted agreements to cultivate and of seizure of ploughs and cattle, which could not be tolerated. On receipt of this report, some of the leading planters as well as the officials of Bihar were consulted through the Commissioner. It was an object to do nothing which would unduly excite the mind of the ryots, and to avoid any such agitation as might lead to breaches of contract and general embitterment of relations between planters and ryots ; and as some of the leading planters declared themselves sensible of the necessity of reform and willing to assist in the work, and for this purpose undertook the establishement of a Planters' Association, any action on the part of Government was postponed, and the matter was entrusted to their hands. This body showed a sincere desire to place the relations between planters and ryots on a more satisfactory footing, and drew up a series of rules, embodying very important reforms, for the guidance of its members. Owing to the efforts of the Association, there has been no recurrence of the old complaints, and very cordial relations have existed up to the present between the planters and the cultivators.

Until the discovery of the Badische artificial dye the area under cultivation appears to have been steadily on the increase, and by the end of the 19th century indigo had spread into every thana of the district, though it was always more prevalent in the north, where the soil has never been altogether suitable for the crop. The industry is now suffering from the competition of the artificial dye in Europe, and from the high prices of foodgrains and the consequent demand for land in Bihar. The price of the natural dye has consequently fallen, and many factories have had to abandon or contract very greatly the growth of indigo. At the time of the last settlement 52,136 acres or 3 per cent of the cultivated area were under indigo, while there were 28 head factories, with 36 outworks in the district. In 1904 their number had fallen to 24 with 27 outworks. and the area under cultivation had also diminished considerably; it was estimated at 34,000 acres in 1903-04, while the final forecast of the indigo crops in Bengal returned the area sown in 1906 as 28,400 acres. Government has come to the aid of the planters with substantial grants for scientific research, the aim of which is to ascertain whether it is possible to increase the outturn and quality of the dye at a cheaper cost; excellent work in the chemistry, bacteriology and agriculture of indigo has been done and is still progressing; and every effort is being made to improve the quality of the plant by importing fresh seed from Natal. But so far these experiments have not succeeded in arresting the decay of the industry. The price obtained for indigo is barely sufficient to cover the cost of production, and many factories are either closing altogether or are reducing the area cultivated with indigo, growing in its place sugar, cotton and other country crops. Most of the area now under indigo is in the Samastipur subdivision; the plant is grown to a smaller extent in the headquarters subdivision; and the industry is no longer of any practical importance in Madhubani, as all the factories in the north and east have ceased to grow the crop.

The gradual decline of the industry in recent years will be sufficiently apparent from the following statistics showing the outturn, value and price of the indigo manufactured :—

Year.	Outturn in maunds.	Value in Rs.	Price per maund in Rs.
1895—1900 (average)	11,599	21,34,895	184
1900-01	9,540	12,87,900	135
1904-05	1,673	2,50,950	150

Cultivation.—The land on which indigo is to be grown is prepared for sowing as soon as the *kharif* crops have been reaped, as it is of great importance that the soil should retain the moisture supplied by the rainfall in October and November. The land is ploughed and re-ploughed until the clods are all pulverised, and after being manured, it is levelled and smoothed with a plank roller composed of a long heavy beam on which two men stand. The seed is sown at the beginning of the hot weather, as soon as the nights

begin to get warm, a special drill, with coulters about 5 or 6 inches apart, being used for the purpose; and after sowing, the roller is again used to level the surface. The seedlings are very delicate until their roots are well developed, and many perish owing to dry west winds; but moist east winds after sowing, and spring showers later, are very beneficial to the young plants. They make slow progress until the monsoon sets in, when the growth becomes very rapid; and they are ready for cutting, which takes place immediately before they flower, in July or August. A second crop is obtainable in September, but usually yields less than the first crop, the outturn of which is ordinarily 80 to 120 maunds of en plant per acre. The yield of 100 maunds of good ordinary pla should be about 10 seers of indigo.

Soil and manures.—Indigo may follow indigo, but is more generally rotated with such crops as sugarcane, tobacco, poppy, cereals and oil-seeds, as it is an exhausting crop, which cannot well be grown on the same land for more than three successive seasons; on the other hand, being a deep-root crop it forms an excellent rotation crop for those which have surface roots, as is the case with many foodgrains. It is usually grown on high lands beyond the reach of floods, the soils are varied in character and composition, but deep alluvium loams seem to suit the crop best. Many soils of this description are deficient in phosphoric acid and nitrogen, but are generally rich in other useful constituents; while extensive experiments have proved that superphosphate and nitrate of potash can be economically applied. The refuse indigo plant (*sith*) is the manure most easily obtained, and is very valuable; but it is less suited for indigo itself than for rotation crops, such as sugarcane, tobacco, poppy, cereals and oil-seeds. It produces heavy crops of indigo, but the leaf is deficient in colouring matter; and indigo grown on land heavily treated with *sith* is liable to injury from insect pests. Farm manure, chemical manures, such as saltpetre and lime, bone-dust and oil-cake are also used.

Seed.—The seed used in Tirhut comes for the most part from the United Provinces, as there is a general belief among the planters that the best seed is obtainable there and that local seed does not keep good from season to season and does not germinate properly. The system of getting seed in this way, without any special selection, has however caused deterioration in the varieties commonly grown, and there is little doubt that the plant commonly cultivated does not now produce a satisfactory amount of dye matter, particularly on worn-out indigo lands. The chief cultivated form is not *Indigofera tinctoria*, as was formerly supposed, but *Indigofera sumatrana*, which was introduced about 150 years ago.

Within recent years Natal indigo (*Indigofera arrecta*) has been introduced, the seed being obtained direct from Natal and also from

plants acclimatized in Java. This plant has been found to give a very considerable increase of colouring matter from the unit area of land, and will produce excellent cuttings for two years in succession and mediocre plants for a third year, whereas other varieties have to be re-sown annually. It has a much more vigorous habit of growth than the old variety, and the leaf contains a larger proportion of the colour-yielding principle. It appears to be eminently suited to the soils and climate of Bihar, and farms have now been established in three districts for the cultivation of its seed in an extensive scale.

Colouring matter.—The colouring matter from which indigotin is derived exists almost entirely in the leaf of the plant. It increases as the plant grows, but deteriorates after a certain stage, and harvesting and steeping have therefore to be carried on expeditiously. Plants which have been cut some time and become blackened by heating in bulk contain very little dye matter, so that the green plant cannot be carted very far. A plant which is forced by manure to very active growth also gives a poor percentage of dye matter.

Manufacture.—After they have been cut the leaves are taken to the factory and are there steeped in large vats until fermentation is complete. The old system of treating the plant required two sets of vats, one on a lower level than the other, those on the highest level being used for steeping the plant, which is kept submerged by logs of wood or bars fixed in position. During this process active fermentation takes place through the action of soluble ferments (enzymes), and causes the formation of a compound which is easily convertible into indigotin by the action of air. The period of steeping varies with the temperature of the air and water; if the temperature of the water is 90° to 92°F., steeping for 10 hours is sufficient, but instead of varying the time, it is preferable to heat the water in the reservoir to a definite temperature. It has been shown by experiment that when the plant is steeped in water at 150° to 16[illegible] principle is extracted in half an hour; and indigo made in this way is superior in quality and contains about 75 per cent of indigotin.

Steeping

Oxidation or beating process.—When fermentation is complete, the liquid in the steeping vats, which varies in colour from bright orange to olive green, is drained off into the lower vats, and is there subjected to a brisk beating, the effect of which is to cause oxidation and separate the particles of dye. As the oxidation proceeds, dark blue particles of indigotin appear in the liquid, the colour of which consequently changes, and the beating is continued until a little of the liquid placed in a saucer readily throws a dark blue precipitate, itself remaining of a clear amber colour. If there is any delay in oxidation, there is a considerable loss of colouring matter, and the indigo produced is inferior. Oxida-

tion was at one time accomplished by hand-beating, but in most Bihar factories it is now done by a beating wheel worked by power from a central engine.

Lime and ammonia process.—The improved method of treating the plant known as Coventry's lime and acid process, which is used in a few Bihar factories, requires a vat intermediate between the steeping and beating vat. Lime is added to the indigo liquor, and a precipitate of calcium and magnesium carbonates then form, which also carries down various other impurities. The cleared liquor, when run off into a lower vat and oxidized, yields indigo of good quality, and a substantial increase of colouring matter is obtained. An ammonia gas process patented by Mr. Rawson in 1901 also produces a direct increase of colouring matter.

Boiling and final preparation.—Finally, the sediment (*mal*) which remains in the vat is boiled, strained and made up into cakes for the market. The first process in these final stages of manufacture is to boil the precipitate which settles after oxidation; the indigo produced from it is improved, if sulphuric acid is added. The dye matter is next placed on a cloth strainer until it becomes fairly dry. It is then carried to the press and subjected to gradually increasing pressure until it has taken the form of firm slabs, which are cut into cakes and slowly dried on racks. Good indigo should contain 60 per cent or more of indigotin, should be bright and of a dark blue colour, with a coppery gloss, and should break with an evenly coloured fracture.

Landed Interests.—The chief feature of the industry in this district as compared with the other indigo growing tracts in North Bihar is the large area cultivated direct by the factories themselves; it was, in fact, ascertained in the course of the last settlement operations that the factories in the Samastipur subdivision had in their direct cultivation no less than 94 per cent of the total area under indigo. The area held by them as landlords is far smaller than elsewhere in North Bihar, amounting to only 6 per cent of the total area of the district. The fact that the Darbhanga factories grow the greater part of the crop themselves, instead of merely purchasing it from others, has been of great advantage to them in the present depressed state of the industry, when the falling price of the natural dye has made the ryots unwilling to grow a crop which does not pay them so well as ordinary crops.

The total area held by them as proprietors or permanent tenure-holders is even smaller, being under one per cent of the total area; and the greater part of their interests as landlords are derived from temporary tenures. The reason for this is that a factory has seldom an opportunity of buying an estate with lands situated conveniently for its purpose. The sale of estates is regarded as a social disgrace only to be resorted to in the last extremity, and

consequently proprietors will not part with their rights unless absolutely forced to do so; while the practice of granting permanent leases has almost entirely died out with the rise in the value of land. Factories are, therefore, mainly dependent on temporary leases for acquiring interests in villages in which they wish to extend or maintain the cultivation of indigo. Such leases are granted as security for loans or are simple farming leases (*thika*). The latter are due to the financial embarrassment of proprietors and to their desire to avoid the troubles of management. The term of the lease may vary from 5 to 20 years, and its renewal is generally made an opportunity for increasing the rent.

The *thika* leases are the commonest of all; and it is to the *thika* system and to his influence as a considerate landlord that the planter owes the strength of his position. The other class of leases common in the district consists of usufructuary mortgages, under which the factory grants a loan at a moderate rate of interest and receives the land of an embarrassed proprietor as security. Leases of this kind are either *zarpeshgi* or *sadua-patua*. In the former case the interest on the loan is paid yearly by deducting it from the rent payable to the mortgagor, and the principal is repayable on the expiry of the lease; in the latter both principal and interest are liquidated by deduction from the yearly rent due to the proprietor. and the tenure thus returns to the latter free of encumbrance at the end of the term agreed upon. The *zarpeshgi* leases are most in favour with the factories, as the proprietor is frequently unable to repay the principal on the expiry of the lease, and the factory consequently acquires a quasi-permanent interest in the land.

Under-tenures.—In some cases, factories take a lease of an under-tenure, this lease being known as *kaikana*, e.g., if two factories quarrel about their respective jurisdiction, a sub-lease from one to the other generally forms the basis of a compromise. Again, a proprietor is prepared to grant a lease of his estate to a factory on condition that it takes the whole, but part may fall within the jurisdiction of another factory. In such a case, the good services of the Indigo Planters' Association are called in to arrange for the latter factory taking a sub-lease from the former, and thus the danger of friction is avoided.

The tinkathia system.—A factory, taking a lease of an estate, acquires direct possession over all the lands which were formerly cultivated by the proprietor, and also over any lands which may become vacant during the period of the lease, by abandonment or surrender on the part of their original occupants. In addition to this, it was formerly the universal custom for the ryots to surrender to the factory for indigo cultivation a certain proportion of the lands of their holdings, usually three *kathas* in the *bigha*, the ryots receiving an abatement of rent for the area so given up, and a

promise that it would be returned to them on the cessation of the factories connection with the village. This system of acquiring lands was always intensely unpopular with the ryots, and is not now generally practised by the best factories. As indigo cultivation usually entails the breaking down of field boundaries and the amalgamation of many small plots into one large one, it was generally practically impossible for any factory, even with the best will in the world, to trace out and restore to the ryot his original plot, on the expiry of a long-term lease; and consequently the system was a fruitful source of dispute and discontent. It is satisfactory, therefore, that it is being abandoned, and that most of the land, which is found in the possession of a factory in its capacity as a temporary tenure-holder, is that which it has acquired unobjectionably as the representative of the superior proprietor.

Ryoti interests.—The very considerable area held by the factories on ryoti interests is mainly acquired by the purchase of ryoti rights, either privately or through the Civil Court. The law facilitates the acquisition of occupancy rights by tenure-holders in an area like Samastipur, where petty proprietors predominate and great subdivision of proprietary rights prevails. A person who does not hold the whole of the proprietary interests of an estate or *patti* in farm, is not debarred from acquiring occupancy rights in the lands of the estate during the term of his lease; and consequently a factory, holding only a share of an estate in lease, as is very common, is frequently able, on the expiry of the lease, to retain in its own possession lands in which it has managed to acquire an occupancy right during the continuance of the lease, by means of direct cultivation and payment of rent to the non-leasing properietors. This method of acquiring occupancy rights is of considerable importance in Darbhanga, for the factories in Samastipur have occupancy rights in nearly a quarter of the land in their own cultivation.

Kurtauli leases.—The land held by the factories as under-ryots is mainly acquired by what are known as *Kurtauli* leases, which correspond to the *sadua-patua* leases granted by proprietors to tenure-holders The factory gives the ryot an advance of so many years rental of the land taken up, and in return is allowed to cultivate the land for that period, giving it back to the ryot on its expiry. The only risk run by the factory is that the ryot may go off with the advance, without paying the rent to the superior landlord, who may then sell up the holding and refuse to recognize the factory in any way. But in practice this is not a serious danger, for *kurtauli* leases are generally executed for part holdings only, and the ryot remains in the village to cultivate the portion which he has not sublet to the factory. An analogous form of mortgage sub-lease is the *sud-bharna*, in which,

as in a *zarpeshgi* tenure, the factory gives an advance, on which the interest only is liquidated by deduction from the annual rent for the land sublet, the factory retaining possession until the principal is repaid. But, here again, want of security other than the land, which is worthless if the ryot should abscond, prevents the system from being very common.

Systems of cultivation.—The three main systems of indigo cultivation commonly practised are *ziraat* or direct cultivation by means of hired servants, *asamiwar* or cultivation through factory tenants, and *khushki* or cultivation through outside ryots.

Ziraat.—The term *ziraat* includes all lands in the direct occupation of the factory, whether held by it as proprietor, tenure-holder, ryot or under-ryot. In Darbhanga by far the greater part of the area under indigo is cultivated direct and it is estimated that the amount of indigo not grown direct by the factories cannot exceed 10 per cent of the total.

Asamiwar.—When the system of *asamiwar* cultivation is follwed, the indigo is grown by the factory tenants at fixed rates per *bigha*. Generally documents, called *sattas*, are executed, the ryot usually receiving an advance and binding himself to grow indigo on a certain specified portion of his holding, and to pay damages if he should fail to carry out his agreement. All the expenses of cultivation are paid by the ryot, but the seed is given by the factory, which also cuts and carts away the indigo, the ryot being paid for the indigo at a rate fixed by the Indigo Planters' Association.

Khushki.—Agreements executed by ryots who are not the tenants of the factory are called *Khushki sattas* or voluntary agreements. In this case, the factory merely supplies the seed and pays for the crop when delivered; it sometimes also gives an advance to the cultivators at a light rate of interest. The amount of *khushki* cultivation in Darbhanga is very small as indigo, if it is to pay, requires selected lands, carefully cultivated and rotated in an intelligent manner. These conditions are all wanting in the *Khushki* system; the rate of remuneration has to be high in order to induce the outside ryot to grow indigo; and the factory cannot therefore afford this system of cultivation.

Influence of the Industry.—Regarding the general effect of the industry on the district, the following opinion of the Settlement Officer may be quoted:—

"The ordinary cultivator in Darbhanga is little affected by indigo cultivation, except in so far as he may have an indigo factory for his landlord; and as this usually implies protection from enhancement of rent, it is a pure gain to him, provided the factory does not force him to grow indigo against his will, or to

give up his lands for the cultivation of indigo. The small area in which indigo is grown, otherwise than by the factories direct, renders the first danger inconsiderable, and the second has been minimized since the practical abandonment of the *tinkathia* system. Hence it may be said that the cultivators of the district derive nothing but advantage from having indigo factories as their landlords; and how great the advantage of stability of rents is, can only be appreciated by those who have seen and realized the constant and vexatious enhacements which, prior to our operations, were always going on in the estates of ordinary native landlords.

"The indigo industry may, without any qualification whatever, be pronounced a boon to the proprietors and labourers of the district. The manner in which embarrassed proprietors turn to indigo factories for loans has already been described. Even for proprietors who are not financially embarrassed, it is no small benefit to be able to rid themselves of the trouble of management, by handing over their property to a tenure-holder, who will pay a full rent punctually and manage the estate efficiently. The benefit of the industry to the labourers is clear. It has been calculated that on the average 172 labourers are required for one day per annum per acre for the cultivation and manufacture of indigo. This means an expenditure on wages alone of at least Rs. 20 an acre, so that the annual total wages bill for the 50,000 acres under indigo* must exceed ten lakhs of rupees. The cultivation of none of the ordinary food crops gives employment to so large a labour force as this, and the benefit of the indigo industry to the labourers of this district is enhanced by the fact that a good deal of the work has to be done in the hot weather when little other employment is available.

"It may be said, therefore, that the indigo industry is an unquestionable benefit to all classes in the district, with a possible reservation as regards the ryots who grow the crop on the *satta* system, and whose profits are not so large as they would derive from the cultivation of other crops. They are, however, compensated in other ways, and, in any case, their number in Darbhanga is so small as to render them of little importance in estimating the effect of the industry on the district as a whole, and in this connection the valuable services rendered on many occasions by members of the planting community to the general administration should not be forgotten."

To this it may be added that the planters have consistently shown themselves true friends to the cultivators and labourers in periods of adversity. Their readiness to help the latter was very clearly shown in the last famine of 1896-97, and the value of their

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* The area under cultivation has since decreased to 28,400 acres.

services at this time of distress may be gathered from the remarks of the Commissioner, who wrote—

"The planting community, as in 1873-74, proved to be of inestimable value in the crisis. In the former year many of them were stimulated by the prospects of pecuniary advantage: in 1896-97 no such stimulus was offered; but at an early stage of the operations their services were offered gratuitously an offer which they more than redeemed. Numbers of them sacrificed time, ease and health to assist Government, and many of them have been loosers by their public-spirited efforts. Yet the work has been cheerfully done, and the community have once more proved themselves invaluable to the administration."

Principal factories.—The following are the principal indigo factories in the district:—

Factory.	Outworks.	Factory.	Outworks.
Headquarters Subdivision		*Samastipur Subdivision*—	
Anar ..	..	Banhar	..
Bachhauli	..	Chal Mohsi	..
Baghauni	..	Gangauli	.. Alampur.
Benipur	.. Harsinghpur.	Harsinghpur ..	Balampur. Bhawara. Rahimabad.
Daulatpur	Meghauli. Ramnagar.		
Kathauri	.. Rasulpur.	Ilmasnagar	. Masena.
Hathi	..	Jitwarpur ..	Daudpur. Hassauli.
Maugalgarh	Kursauli. Motipur.		
Madhubani Subdivision .		Keota ..	Chatra. Gobindpur. Kamla. Jemoarhanda. Sahpur. Tappa.
Jaynagar	.. Nararh.		
Pandaul ..	Lauua. Lohat.		
Rayam	..	Khan Mirzapur	

Factory.	Outworks.
Samastipur Subdivision	
Maniapur	Budaya. Kalyanpur.
Muktapur	Kalyanpur.
Rewari	..
Shapur	Undi. Barauli.* Sakri.* Subnaha.*

*Outworks of the Dhuli factory in the Muzaffarpur district.

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Kali Temple at Rajnagar



A specimen of *Sikki* craft kept at Chandradhari Museum, Darbhanga



Sanskrit University Building at Darbhanga donated by the Maharajadhiraj



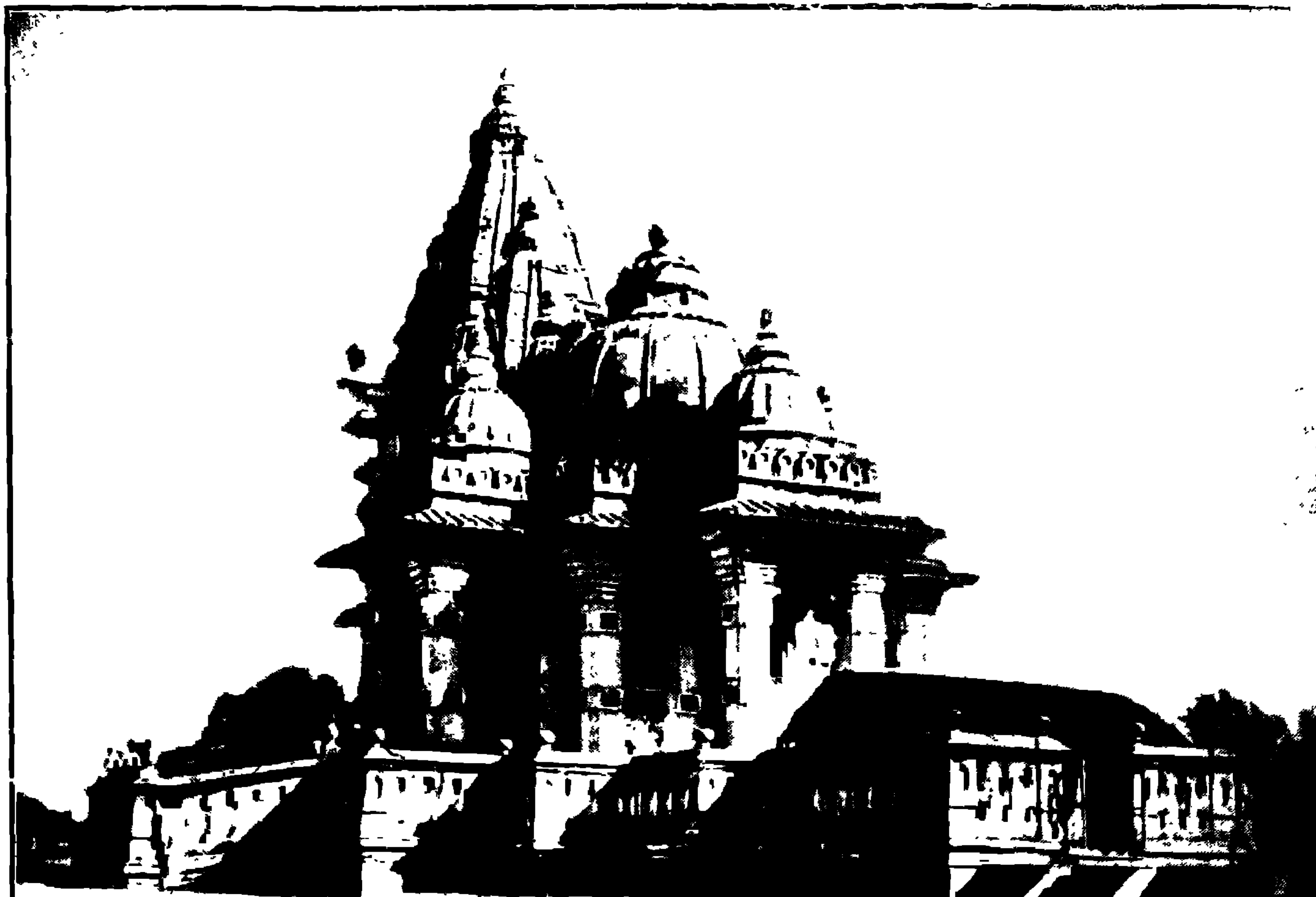
Old Darbhanga Raj Palace—Damaged by earthquake



Collapsa cf the Rai Hospitai by the Earthquake, 1934



Darbhanga—Destruction of Bazar area by the earthquake (top left) and congested Bazar before the earthquake (top right and bottom)



A view of the Shiva Temple at Rajnagar, before the Earthquake, 1934



A view of Lakshmishwara Vilas Palace after the earthquake of 1934